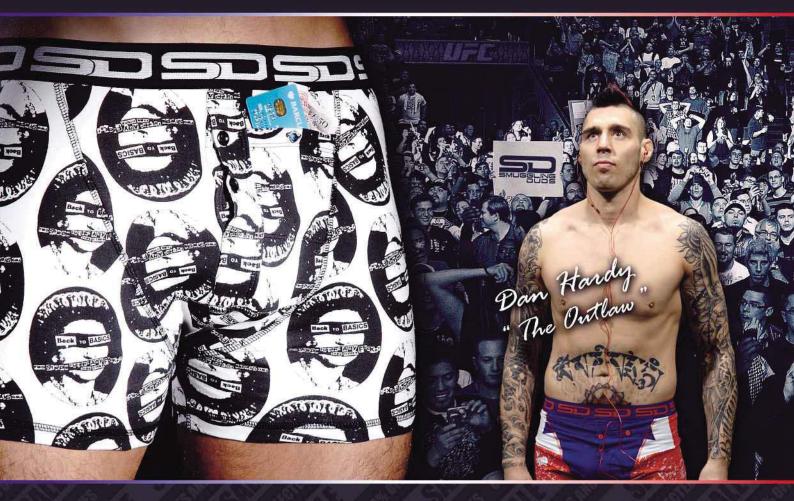


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FACE OF DEATH

ECUADOR This gruesome shrunken head - on display at the Museo de Sitio Intiñan, near the city of Quito – is one of the finest surviving examples of tsantsa, which was practiced by the Jivaroan tribes of Ecuador and Peru up until the 1800s. War was common amongst Jivaroan tribes such as the Shuar, Achuar and Humabisa, and warriors often shrank the heads of their dead enemies and wore them around their neck as battle trophies. The complex head-shrinking process involved removing the victim's skull, turning their face inside out, scraping the skin clean, then simmering the flesh in a cooking pot until it shrank to half its original size. The eyes and lips were then sewn shut, the head stuffed with sand, and a hot knife used to mould the flesh until it resembled the headhunter's dead foe.













Your monthly mash-up of NEWS, VIEWS, OOZE and OOHS!

ALT-FEST 2014 WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!

Ground-breaking alternative festival is poised to make 2014 a dark and decadent year

IMAGINE THE GREATEST THREE DAYS

of your life. Imagine being whisked away to beautiful, sprawling grounds in the English countryside, with zombie paintball in the woods, a circus top featuring deranged acts, and a steampunk area with museums, music and tea parties. Imagine 150 bands spread across five stages, with major headliners in the world of goth, metal and industrial. Add in club nights, workshops and spectacular art. Sounds like a dream come true? Well, that's exactly what it's about to become...

Alt-Fest is a ground-breaking alternative festival that's debuting at Boughton House, Northamptonshire, on 15-17 August (or over five days for happy campers). The brainchild of d.Void and Missy Void, the lovely couple behind London's awesome goth / fetish crossover night, Club Antichrist, Alt-Fest is not only the first alternative showpiece of its type, but is also the first festival to be successfully financed through crowd funding (in this case via Kickstarter). In addition, people who've already pledged cash, effectively securing themselves advance cut-price tickets, have been voting for what Alt-Fest should include. And it's awesome.

"If you look at other mainstream festivals, they book line-ups that they think people want to see," an excited d.Void tells *Bizarre*. "For Alt-Fest, we have solicited critique across the entire spectrum of the festival, with potential goers voting on which acts they want to perform, and providing feedback on what other festivals got right or wrong."

Alt-Fest will have five designated music stages – a main stage, plus goth, metal,

industrial / electronica and up-and-coming stages. There will also be a full-size circus top, headlined by The Circus Of Horrors, with other attractions including karaoke for adults and kids, zombie paintball in the forests, goth clubs raging through the early hours, and various art activities and workshops. After 9pm the circus top will provide adult-only performances, and d.Void has also promised a 100 per cent secluded adult area which will boast adult shopping, BDSM demos and a dungeon.

"Apart from being the world's first crowd-led and crowd-funded festival, it's also the world's largest celebration of alternative culture, art music and lifestyle," says d.Void. "It's closer to the ethos of Glastonbury, with both adult and children's attractions, and a circus big top that is open for 12 hours a day, which will also include burlesque shows and body modification. The festival is completely child-friendly, and under-12s will get in for free. But, at the other end of

the scale, we have a secluded adult area as we recognise that BDSM is a lifestyle of the alternative scene."

At the time of writing, some 70 bands are confirmed to rock Alt-Fest, and include VNV Nation, Suicide Commando, Front 242, Covenant, The Fields Of The Nephillim and Atari Teenage Riot. However, there is still the matter of headliners to settle, some of whom may have been announced by the time you read this. d.Void promises that they are in negotiations with massive names – although one of the bands won't be Rammstein, who'll be taking 2014 off after a hectic 2013 schedule.

"There are four to five possible headliners who are available, and we have the funds to book them," d.Void teases. "As well as the crowd funding, we have also raised money through sponsorship and private funding. One band we're speaking to sold nearly 65,000 tickets when they last toured the UK across very few dates. We are confident of adding them to the line-up."

The other exciting development is the venue that d.Void and Missy have secured. Situated in the grounds of a privately owned stately home in Northamptonshire, it's all flat grassland, forests and a disused WW2 airfield. The couple has also sealed a 'blanket' license for the event, which means live music can legally continue until 4am. "And you know what the other great thing is?" asks d.Void. "The grass areas are completely flat, so if it gets interrupted by British rain, there won't be any Glastonbury-style mud baths."

More news and announcements at Alt-Fest.com

and Facebook.com/AlternativeFest

Below: Fields Of The Nephilim's Carl McCoy







SHANNON LARRATT 29 SEPTEMBER 1973 – 15 MARCH 2013



BIZARRE MOURNS THE SAD PASSING

of a true icon, worthy of the title guru; founder of a revolutionary community; a philosopher exploring the outer reaches of self-expression, self-exploration and what it means to be a mind inside a case of flesh and bone. Shannon Larratt was a unique and valued human being.

On March 15, Shannon – creator of the world's longest-established and biggest body modification website, BMEzine.com, and its online community forums, IAM.BMEzine.com – took his own life, bringing a chosen end to the increasing amounts of pain and debilitation he had been experiencing due to the rare genetic disorder, tubular aggregate myopathy, which causes calcium to be problematically deposited in soft tissues.

Shannon contributed to Bizarre many times as a body mod expert, including to our very first issue, and underwent myriad heavy modification experiences himself, including receiving magnetic implants and eyeball tattoos. He was a strikingly eloquent and intelligent man, whose knowledge of body modification practices and theories was not only comprehensive, but also considered from a multitude of angles, from the aesthetic to the anatomical to the psychological. The communication of accurate, responsible information and education about body alteration was of great importance to him. Joyfully, so too was humour - his spoofs included convincing a number of press outlets to erroneously report that a guy had grafted his twin brother's entire arm onto his chest. He was universally respected throughout the body modding field, credited with inspiring many people in all manner of positive ways, and cherished by those who knew him well.

"Shannon's death marked the saddest day in my life, and the saddest day in the whole of body modification history," says friend and modification artist, Samppa Von Cyborg. "I will always love him."

There is so much we could write in celebration of Shannon, but it seems fitting to finish with a few words of his own. Prior to his passing, he prepared a final entry for his personal blog, Zentastic.com, which we recommend that you read in full. It included the following:

"Seize every opportunity that's in front of you and live life to the fullest. Even with everything I've done, there is so much more I wish I'd squeezed in.

"Have every adventure you can, and explore every street — although treat the one-way streets with caution.

"Live a life that you can be proud of."

Shannon left behind family including fiancé Caitlin, ex-partner Rachel, and adored daughter Nefarious, AKA Ari, to whom we send our deepest condolences. Ally Fox



THE WORLD OF HORROR WAS MOURNING

a great loss on 20 March when iconic British writer, James Herbert OBE, passed away in his sleep at his Sussex home. He was aged 69.

One of *Bizarre*'s all-time favourite authors, London-born Herbert authored 23 novels and achieved worldwide sales of some 54m. His first book, *The Rats*, about mutant rodents running amok in London, was penned in a 10 month period when he was just 28–years-old. When it was published in 1974, the initial 100,000 copies sold out within three weeks.

Between 1974 and the early 1990s, Herbert churned out a new novel almost every year. Among his most celebrated works are *The Fog* (1975), *The Dark* (1980), and *The Magic Cottage* (1986). Although his prolificacy slowed in later years, the quality of Herbert's storytelling never diminished, and he released the dark paranormal thriller *Ash* last year. He was also awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours in 2010.

When we announced James Herbert's passing on the *Bizarre* Facebook page, the tributes came flooding in. Here are some of the things that you said.

"He was the author that took me away from The Discworld and opened up a whole new reality for me. I read The Rats when I was 13 and from the opening scene where the homeless guy is devoured, I was hooked!" David Williams

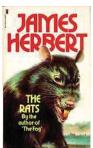
"The Spear was my first proper horror read. He always wrote superb sex scenes as well some of the most extraordinary, twisted and satisfying tales [around]. In my opinion, he's the greatest British writer of a generation."

Rebecca Leopardprint Walters

"I still hold dear the mental image of the priest pissing over his flock in *The Fog*, but the book that sticks to me most is *Survivor*. The ending really appealed to my twisted teenage mind. RIP good Sir, Stephen King could never hold a candle to you." Ken Herbertson

"I read *Others* when I was about 14, I found it completely repulsive but I couldn't put it down. I didn't sleep for about a week afterwards either!" Danielle Elizabeth Atkins

"What an incredible writer and a huge loss to the horror world. I've never re-read two books as many times as *Others* and *Nobody True*, and that's a rare thing for me. RIP James." Emma Jonesy' Williams



"James Herbert is the only horror writer to ever truly grip my attention. I have read and enjoyed all of his books for 25 years. He truly was the master of the warped and disturbing." Barry Saunders

"The first book of his I read was Fluke, which is different to his other works. Captivating and emotional, funny yet tense, his writing makes you look at everyday things in a very different light." Samii Bliss

"The Dark is my favourite. It's his style of writing that gets me. It's so easy to picture the madness of what's going on." Lundie Longrod-Vanhugendong Lund

"I borrowed *The Magic Cottage* from my best friend's brother 20 years ago and I have read it to pieces – literally! There are pages missing but I know the story off by heart. He will be sadly missed." Tiffany MissFlynn Harvey

"The Magic Cottage is my favourite. It's like a scary fairy tale. Great twists, great imagery and the characters are so lovely and easy to picture." Jasmine Sevette James Herbert OBE's books are published by Pan Macmillan. Visit Panmacmillan.com



DANIELLE LUCIER PHOTOGRAPHY
CUNT (BELOW RIGHT) SHAWN BISHOP

his is Dayne. She lives in Denmark but, disappointingly for pun-damentalists, she's not Dayne-ish; she's Canadian. And she's also bloody good fun - as up for posing as a horse-girl or a latex Spock as she is for shooting more traditional, oozingwith-sex-appeal images. At Bizarre we love a model who doesn't take herself too seriously; it makes them more likely to answer juvenile questions based on exceedingly

tenuous links like this...

Dayne, are you aware of your name-twin, Dane Bowers, who released a song with the lyric, "Can I get some of your bomb diggy jelly jelly goody chocolate puddy"?

We share a name, so maybe he also loves to eat popsicles in bed while streaming episodes of American comedy shows such as Community, or wearing a onesie while gardening? Perhaps he could come over for a red IPA beer and we could hang out in my cave, while I show him how hip and modern I am by demonstrating

We've heard you're such a nerd you leak geek from every orifice...

Absolutely! Geeks are the best. I go to conventions to meet people I admire and to see the

awesome costumes. At the Montréal ComicCon I met Brent Spiner, who plays Lieutenant Commander Data in Star Trek: The Next Generation, and almost cried. He told me I was cute. I went back later after deciding to hit on

him, but he was gone.

I volunteered at the con the following year and met half the cast of Buffy The Vampire Slayer, along with Gil Gerard from Buck Rogers. I also spoke to Erin Gray, who starred alongside him, and is the manager of Buffy's Felicia Day and Firefly's Summer Glau. She had a lot of opinions on home-schooling; she thinks it's why Felicia Day turned out to be so rad.

Gobble up more delicious Dayne-ish pastry at Facebook.com/daynethemodel Help support her unconventional convention adventures and entirely unobjectionable erectionable modelling marvellousness by buying prints at Daynemodel.deviantart.com



HOTSHOTS >DARK ART

COP A FELL

Fall for Aly Fell's digital damsels

WORDS ALIX FOX
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here are you most likely to meet a steampunk-styled strumpet rocking ruffled taffeta Tudor shorts and an antique shiny shotgun, a pin-up who'll either pin you down with her peepers or a penknife, or another kind of "knowing, independent, black-humoured" woman who's "arching an eyebrow, smirking slightly and clutching a delicate blade or pointy weapon"? Try taking a walk down a dark Aly-way...

ALY-WAYS ULTRA

Digital artist Alastair 'Aly' Fell is originally from Glastonbury, but now spends his time hiding away from the roaring winds and pouring rain in a Mancunian attic. He ended up oop North having studied art at colleges in nearby Salford and Chester, after being rejected by a Bath institution on the basis of him having a portfolio "too full of pictures of women" and, influenced by illustrators like

Brian *Labyrinth* Froud, allegedly unattainable dreams of "getting a job drawing silly little animals". Fell's first role after graduating? Official Drawer of Silly Little Animals at Cosgrove Hall Animation Studios. "I got to work on Danger Mouse, which was amazing, as I'd filled my eyes with that show as a kid," says Fell, who also worked on The BFG and Count Duckula ("In the heart of Transylvania, in the vampire hall of fame-yeah, there's not a vampire zanier!")

creators Core Design, mummy and daddy to Lara Croft – although Fell got shunted into the stables sketching silly little animals again for a PlayStation 2 title called Herdy Gerdy. Two years and a whole litter of started-offgreat, now-starting-to-grate critters later, he left, and put in time at a variety of other studios before a major event made him realise that human life can sometimes be shorter than Willow's willy warmer, so you've got to live for the moment, "My partner became very ill with throat cancer," Fell recalls. "Thankfully she made a full recovery

Next came a stint with computer game





and has just published her first novel, but the experience made me realise you only get one shot at being alive, so it was time to take the plunge and become selfemployed so I could concentrate on creating the type of art I truly loved."

FELL SPEED **AHEAD**

That art turned out to be pictures of "strong woman characters who don't need a man to dangle off like some sort of appendage". Fell's females are rarely based on real lasses; he says he

has "a 'look' and personality for my women that people have come to know as mine", although he finds he always needs to look at a reference picture to get their hands right!

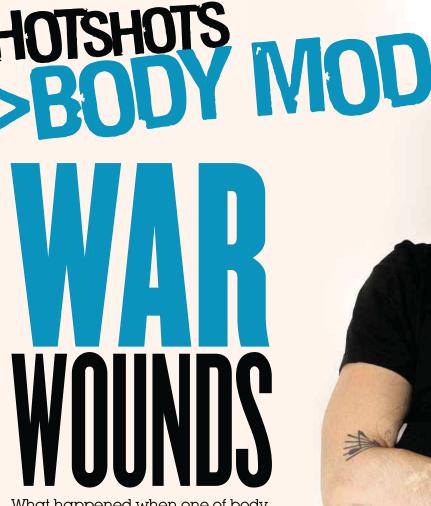
His heroines are crafted using a Wacom Cintig model digital drawing board, "Digital artists often find themselves having to defend what they do, but I'm traditionally trained and every mark I make on my tablet is the equivalent of a brush stroke," philosophises Fell. His pixels are certainly popular: they've graced the covers of numerous books, including those by the best-selling author Christopher Moore and award-winning fantasy writer Seanan McGuire, and even decorated a deck of steampunk tarot cards.

Speaking of fortune-telling, spell-casting and magick, Fell's currently finding himself to be inspired by English artist and occultist Austin Osman Spare - and recently had something a little magical happen to him at a Birmingham convention, too. "I met Katy Manning, who played Jo in the Pertwee years of Dr Who," he explains. "I had a signed image from her back when I was a nipper in 1974, but I lost it, so she signed the very same picture for me - now in colour - closing a 39-year circle!" Maybe it's not a dark Alyway you'll find Fell, but a Darlek Aly-way?

Dark Rising: The Art of Aly Fell is out now, published by SQP, available from Darkrising.co.uk Look out for Fell's figurines and new merch made by Nemesis Now. Also expect a graphic novel set in the 1500s to swoop onto shelves soon. In the meantime, satiate your illustrious illustration lust at A-tudor-rose.blogspot.co.uk







What happened when one of body modder **Arseniy Andersson**'s clients requested a fake 'self harm' scarification to avoid harsh Russian army duty...

rseniy Andersson is an accomplished body modification artist based in Saint Petersburg. Russia. He prides himself on treating each procedure he performs "like a surgeon": operating under sterile conditions, using the best tools, jewellery and implants available, and educating himself by meeting with and learning from mod gurus such as Samppa Von Cyborg. We've featured Andersson in Bizarre before, along with his Leeds Suspension Team crew. While he says that his main motivations for modifying clients are "art, and to facilitate selfexpression", a while ago he was approached by a customer who wanted something very different: he asked Andersson to safely scar his arm in such a way that it looked as though he'd been self-harming, so that he could avoid Russian army duty by claiming he was not of sufficiently sound mind.

Russian men between the ages of 18-27 are required by national law to serve at least one year in the military, with very few exceptions. Many guys don't relish the prospect, not least because they may well have heard stories about 'Dedovshcnina': a reputedly brutal and humiliating form of hazing that new recruits may be unofficially subjected to by those in higher ranks, which has been reported on by reputable sources such as *The New York Times*. In an exceptional case last year, a draftee named Ruslan Aiderkhanov was allegedly raped and

WORDS ALIX FOX PICTURES STAN LI tortured to death by his seniors, and a soldier who testified against the supposed attackers was later found shot dead. Even putting tales of Dedovshcnina aside, serving in the Russian army is widely considered to be extremely tough, and it is not uncommon for men to attempt to evade duty by various means.

Andersson assures *Bizarre* that he is happy to be identified within this story, but other names have been withheld to protect the identities of those involved. We'll let him tell it in his own words...

BATTLE SCARS

"In theory, the Russian army is supposed to be a good place where youngsters go to learn how to become men – but that's only a theory. These days, the army, like so many state systems, has become flooded with corruption. It doesn't make people strong and brave, it just makes money. Large bribes to avoid service are common. I avoided being conscripted myself by pretending to be insane: I played a convincing role eye-to-eye with the conscription service psychologist, and after an asylum agreed with his diagnosis that I was too mentally unstable to serve, I was free. Of the friends I have who didn't manage to get out of serving, not a single one says he was taught skills or that the army helped him grow real man balls; they all say it was the worst experience, and a huge waste of time.

"My client, 'Max', received his conscription letter aged 20. Russian bureaucracy is legendary, so he evaded being called up for a couple of years just because the army hadn't mailed him! He is a musician with a weak, slim constitution, and a pacifist. He feared he'd be terrorised by other soldiers, and did not believe in anything the army stands for, so he came to me for help three days before his medical exam was due.

"Max' wanted me to make it look as if he'd been self-harming, and he didn't want to slice himself as he wanted to be sure that the cuts would heal safely. I used a scalpel freehand to remove his skin under sterile conditions and, taking care never to pierce into the muscle, I tried to make the cuts look like believable self-harm marks – crude enough to fool the psychologist, but designed to heal in as neat and decorative a way as possible. 'Max' can always change his arm with further modifications in the future if he so desires.

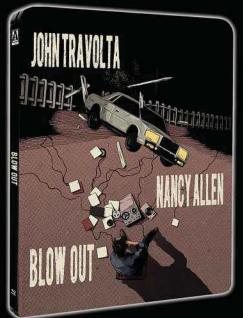
"A few days later the incisions had crusted over with blood. 'Max' looked perfectly suicidal, and he was sent to the asylum to collect his 'white ticket' exempting him from army duty. I would never recommend that anyone try this themselves: 'self-harm' scars do not guarantee service exemption, and both the marks and the notice stating you are insane can have negative repercussions. But it was an interesting and challenging request that I chose on this occasion to fulfil. I'm much happier creating true body art, though!"

See Andersson's usual unusual work at

Facebook.com/groups/anderssonBMA









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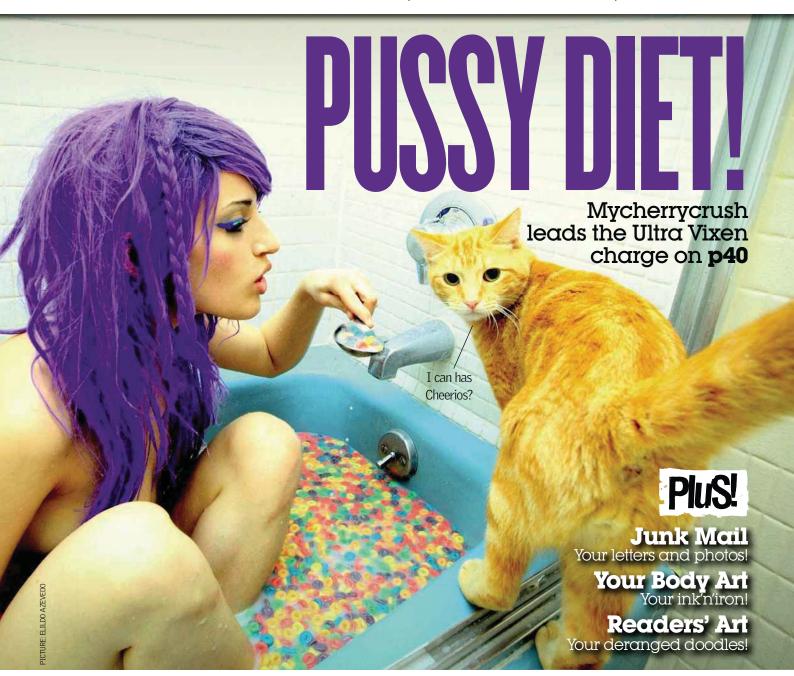
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RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot!

Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!



GOODY-GOODY GUM BALLS

I came across these Camel Balls (below) at my local newsagent. They tasted quite nice at first, like fruity jam, but then became a bit plasticy after a couple of minutes. I would've loved to be in the manufacturers' marketing meeting, discussing how they would promote these tiny, severed camel bollocks full of cream and blood. "Let's have a big cartoon camel showing his nuts off presnip, all punky-looking, with a ring in his nose and a cool quiff." Yeah... that'll do. Dave Kelsall, *Bizarre* Towers



Dumpstar!

PRETTY IN INK

Hi *Bizarre*! Nina Kate is one of my favourite models along with *Bizarre* Ultra Vixens Raquel Reed, Kelly Eden and cover star Viktoria Modesta. I have a massive passion for alt.fashion photography, and I look forward to your cover girl features each issue. I chatted with my tattooist, Amy Kinsell from

Modern Body Art in Birmingham, about combining realism and neotraditional tattoo designs, as these are my favourite styles, and together we created my chest piece.

Nina saw my chest when I met her at the Bizarre Ball – she was really friendly and excited to see it, and she'd already seen it featured in *Skin Deep*. I had the tattoo done over two-and-a-

half years ago, and since then I've had a lot of new ink work. Amy is currently working on a Stephen Fry portrait for me, and next we're planning a big unicorn back piece!

Gracie Gosling, via email

Mandatron says: Got a tattoo of a *Bizarre* cover star and want to see it in the mag? Get your bits out and send us a snap!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

I'm a film extra and I'd love to be in your magazine. I read Bizarre regularly, and I think it's fantastic. I have been in many films, television programmes and adverts, and have good experience. I was chosen to play a New York policeman in Kick-Ass, and I was also an extra in The Dark Knight Rises and I Give It A Year. I also had a speaking part in a film called Bunny And The Bull which starred most of the cast from The Mighty Boosh. I played a Spanish taxi driver, and I had to kick the doors of my cab when my car alarm went off. I kicked the door, then Noel Fielding rammed a shopping trolley into it. I said my line in Spanish, "No tocas



mi coche, cabron!", which means, "Don't touch my car, wanker!", and at the same time I had to pretend that I was punching and fighting Noel. We fell to the ground and the director was happy. I also met Matt Damon while I was working on set for the

film Green Zone; I asked to have a photo taken with him, which I have at home. I used to compete in bodybuilding competitions, but now I also work full-time as a special security guard for a multimillionaire - he owns a 13th century mansion, with a swimming pool, a gym and fast cars. He's a fair man, and I get holiday and days off for filming. Mel Abbot, Essex

ALT.DISNEY

I'd love to have the opportunity to be featured in your magazine. Last year I launched my own rockabilly and kawaii-inspired jewellery and accessory company called House Of Wonderland. I designed the images myself, having felt inspired by my love of Disney princesses (right), my fondness for the obscure, and my two young children. I teamed up with tattoo artist Edward Staples to create one of my newest collections featuring a range of tattoo-inspired jewellery - they're perfect for people that might be feeling indecisive about a tattoo as they're removable! The designs are from Ed's flash cards, which can be found at his studio, Den Of Iniquity Tattoo Parlour, in Edinburgh. We're not a large company, but we believe in supporting independent companies, designers and suppliers, and sourcing most of our stuff from UK stores.

Check out House-of-wonderland.com for your

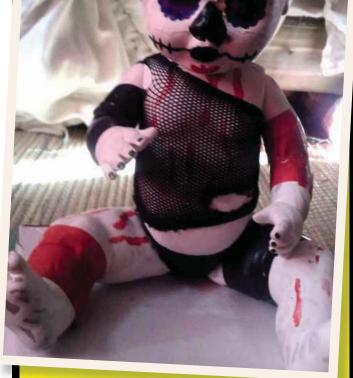
SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY

Earlier this year I spent one Sunday afternoon dressed as a zombie (below), drinking beer in a Tokyo bar filled with ornamental sex toys and taxidermy - not exactly what I expected to be doing at 3pm on 'the day of rest'! When I first heard about this place in the district of Roppongi, I knew I had to check it out. It's run by

zombie-obsessed freaks Zombiena, who organise the annual Zombie Walk in Yoyogi Park. It's an intimate bar lavishly decorated in black leather that can hold maybe 30 people, tops. Climb up a narrow stairway, open an unassuming door, and daylight turns to dark. The zombie staff (who refer to each other by number, not by name) are busy giving people gruesome makeovers and serving cocktails such as Zombie Blood and Zombie Bile. One waitress aggressively straddled me while splashing fake blood on my face. All in all, it was more fun than going to church. I'm exploring Tokyo and blogging my adventures as I go, so please check out my site at Ikimasho.net. Justin Egli, via Twitter



Tessa Shearer, via Facebook alt.accessory needs



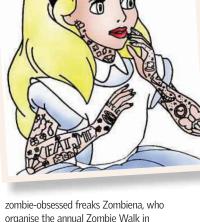
MY VOODOO VALENTINE

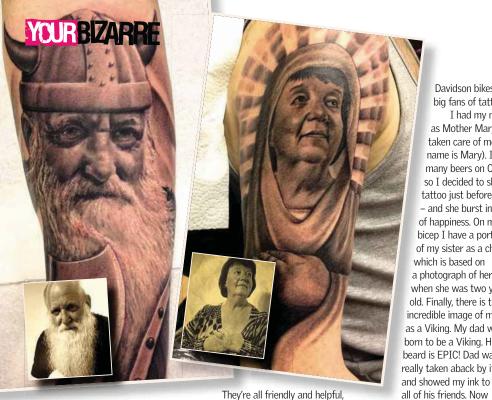
Here's a photo of my creation called 'That Thing', the offspring of Saul and FireChild, Master and Mistress of the Gothic Society of Wandsworth. The result of much dark goth love and constant 'carroting' (see the Urban Dictionary's definition...), 'That Thing' is a Frankenstein-esque creation inspired by Day Of The Dead art, Living Dead Dolls, and a tutorial in goth folk singer Voltaire's book, Paint It Black. Despite its spooky appearance, 'That Thing' is the easiest baby in the world to look after. It never cries, it's easy to feed, and doesn't need its nappy changed. How could you not love it to death?

FireChild, via email









ONE THOR ALL THE FAMILY

Hey Bizarre! I wanted to share my new tattoos with you (above). I recently visited Cosmic Tattoo in Colchester, and was lucky enough to get an appointment with one of the UK's best tattoo artists, Leigh Oldcorn. Leigh was one of 10 artists short-listed for 'Best UK Male Artist' in the UK Tattoo Industry Awards 2013, and he manages an amazing team at the studio, including three other talented tattoo artists and one body-piercer.

They're all friendly and helpful, and have collectively won many awards. Basically, I can't say enough good things about this place!

The idea for my right sleeve came after many years of thought. I'd always wanted something in a family tree style, but I also wanted perfect portraits of my mum, dad and sister. So instead of normal portraits, I decided to portray my family as different characters who share their personal traits.

I was excited to see the look on their faces when I first revealed my tattoo because, although they're hardcore (they own and ride Harley

Davidson bikes), they aren't big fans of tattoos.

I had my mum portrayed

as Mother Mary, as she's always taken care of me (and her middle name is Mary). I'd had a few too many beers on Christmas Day, so I decided to show her my tattoo just before our big lunch – and she burst into tears of happiness. On my inner bicep I have a portrait of my sister as a cherub, which is based on a photograph of her when she was two years old. Finally, there is the incredible image of my dad as a Viking. My dad was born to be a Viking. His beard is EPIC! Dad was really taken aback by it,

I was happy to stay on Leigh's waiting list for nine months to get my four six-hour sessions to complete the sleeve. I couldn't be happier with the result! I look forward to seeing parts of my ink in your awesome magazine. Daniel Hunter, via email

my family's opinion

to conventions!

of tattoos has changed,

and they're keen to go

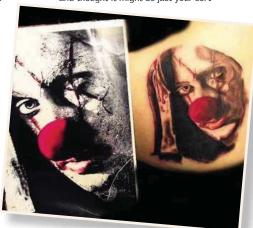
BLOODY FUNNY

Hi Bizarre! I wanted to show your readers this tattoo (above right) of comedian Ross Noble's creepy clown character from the film Stitches, which you reviewed in Bizarre 198. Andy Arnold from Taattoo Wombwell in South Yorkshire inked this late last year on Lozzy Dobson, after she and her husband made a bet with Ross when they went to see him live in concert. They bet they would both have the Stitches clown tattooed in order to win a selection of free tickets and promotional items from Ross.

They love going to Ross' live shows, and they stalk him on Twitter! They're big fans of Stitches, and couldn't wait to buy it on DVD. We're still waiting to ink this on Lozzy's husband to win the bet! Theresa Arnold, via email

LIVING DEAD DOLL

I did a photoshoot (bottom of page) and thought it might be just your sort

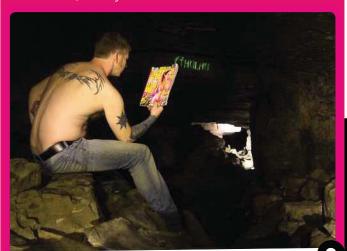


of thing! It'd be awesome to see it published! I've been a fan of Bizarre since I was seven - I used to pinch the mag from the newsagents, and also told my mum I wanted to become a werewolf and cover myself in tattoos.

The idea for these photos came about as I was getting ready for an Ice Queen-themed shoot. Photographer Deborah Selwood, make-up artist Amy Biddulph and I were discussing our love for The Walking Dead comic series. We all agreed the make-up in the TV show is fantastic, so we wanted to create a gory zombie shoot with fullbody undead detail. We added a twist of girly glamour - you can't get more girly and glamorous than Barbie! I was the 'cover girl' for the huge live action role playing game *Empire* – if you search my name on Facebook, you'll be able to find more pictures!

Captin Maximus Ron, via email

Here's Joel Davies, beneath the hills of Rossendale in Lancashire, enjoying a quiet read underground. "I'm about to sacrifice your good mag to Master Cthulhu," Joel says.



WHERE DO YOU READ

Most of you enjoy perusing Bizarre on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys and in the weirdest places!



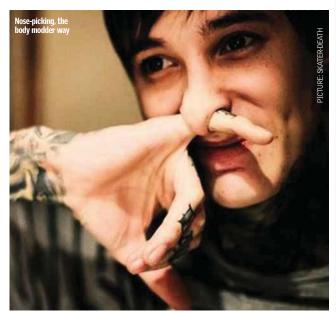


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▲ ADEY BOURNEMOUTH



ARTIST Joe Munroe, Bournemouth. WHAT IS IT? An oriental geometric sleeve. WHY DID YOU

CHOOSE IT? The main reason I got this tattoo is because it looks good! The Japanese imagery at the bottom is tattooist Ben Hamill's work, and all the pattern-work was done by Joe.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?

I don't think they're fussed about my tattoos – I don't see my family enough for my ink to bother them.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?

People sometimes stop me to look at my tattoos – but as I'm normally out with Joe, people want to talk to him instead as he has more ink than me.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

Joe's partner, Emma, has plans for female portraits on my left arm, so I'll let her take control of the design. I don't think my tattoos will ever be completely finished.

CLAIRE MOSLEY▼ LFFDS



ARTIST Martin Couley, Couley's Tattoo Studio, Leeds. WHAT IS IT? A portrait of Marilyn Monroe.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I'd wanted a Marilyn Monroe portrait for a while, so it was just a matter of shopping around and deciding which artist I wanted to do the work. I've been obsessed

with Marilyn since I was a little girl

– I love how glamorous she was.
I have a Marilyn Monroe calendar
on my wall every year, as well as
a Marilyn-shaped mirror and cushion!

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK?
Fortunately, my family love Marilyn as
much as I do. So far, everyone who's

seen my tattoo loves it. **GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?**

This portrait is the start of a 1950sthemed sleeve. I'll also be getting portraits of film stars such as Audrey Hepburn and Ginger Rogers. Audrey and Ginger were just as glamorous as Marilyn!











ARTIST Anabi, Anabi-Tattoo, Poland, WHAT IS IT? A theatrical sleeve. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

Anabi and I had been thinking about a theatrical sleeve for a long time,

and the work itself took about five months to complete. On my forearm is a girl sitting at a vanity table. I didn't want to leave the space above her empty, so we added a guy who's in love with her, who's descending like a puppet to give her a heart and flowers. That was Anabi's idea, as well as the woman wearing the Venetian mask.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?People ask if the girl in my tattoo is supposed to be my girlfriend, but she

isn't. The Venetian masked lady was from a picture Anabi found, but he changed it to make the image his own. My friends are excited about my tattoos, and they think my theatrical sleeve is awesome.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

Work has already begun on my right arm, but the characters we've included don't represent anybody special. The plan is to create another full sleeve, but the theme will remain a secret until it's finished.





COOKIE▼ DALLAS, TEXAS



ARTIST Liz Cook, Rebel Muse Tattoo Studio, Dallas, US. **WHAT IS IT?** A portrait of my good friend, Mike.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

Mike is a washed-up rock'n'roller, and he bet me that I wouldn't get a tattoo of his face. He didn't think I'd go through with it, but he laughed when he saw the tattoo. It was one of those things you don't expect to actually happen. It was just for a laugh!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

Everyone really digs it, especially the realistic style and the fact Mike is pointing his finger. We spent around 14 hours on the tattoo in total – it was really time consuming.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I've got some unfinished work on my leg – I've got a Seth Rogen portrait from *Zack And Miri Make A Porno*, which needs a background, and I've also got Jennifer Love-Hewitt and Abby from *NCIS*, which is in progress. I've got a couple of other ideas in mind as well, but I haven't confirmed these yet. I'm also looking forward to tying all my tattoos together somehow.

▲ CRAIG MAGEE DONCASTER



ARTIST Lee Denham, Sacred Skin Custom Tattoo, Doncaster.

WHAT IS IT? A hog's head with

A hog's head with a dagger and roses.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

In all honesty, I have no idea why I chose this design! I've had it for the best part of 10 years, and it's a cover-up of my first tattoo. I just

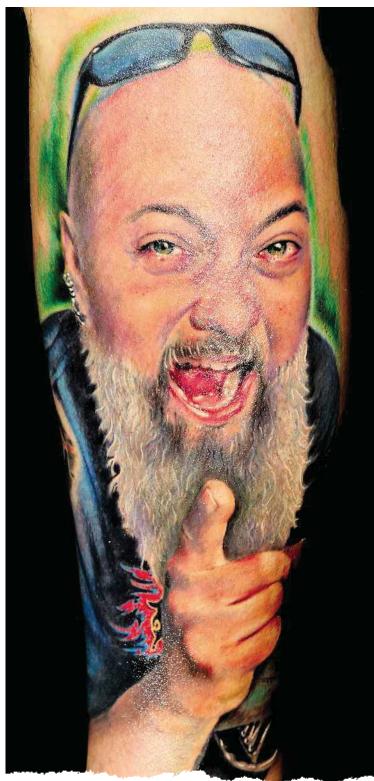
love the design, and thought a hog tattoo would be cool. When I got this tattoo I hadn't seen anyone else with ink like mine.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK ABOUT IT?

My mum always asks me, "When is this going to stop?", but that's about it. People don't often stop me to talk about my ink – and if they do, they usually talk about how big it is.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I've no other tattoos planned for the future – I'm going to roll with the punches!









ARTIST Nutz, Nutz Tattoo, Hertfordshire. WHAT IS IT? A manga sleeve. WHY DID YOU

CHOOSE IT? I've loved anime and manga for years – and as I hadn't seen many people with Japanese cartoon tattoos, I thought I'd give it a go. My sleeve includes characters from the different series I've watched over the years; one is Major Motoko from *Ghost In The Shell*, another is Rally



from *Gunsmith Cats*, and there's also a character inspired by *Bubblegum Crisis*. Nutz does mostly biomechanical work, so he used biomech designs to fill any gaps. The sleeve took about four years to complete.

WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK ABOUT IT?

My mum got a small tattoo of a cat, and that's what made me want a tattoo of my own. I was originally going to get a tattoo of the Tasmanian Devil, but I'm glad I changed my mind! I've worried about what reaction my sleeve would get, but people on the street often come up to have a better look at my ink and take photos.







CHRISTOPHER MEWSE DONCASTER



ARTIST Mick Wilkinson, Primal Art Tattoo, Doncaster. WHAT IS IT?

A dragon, which is part of an oriental sleeve.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

I've always liked dragon tattoos, and that came from watching dragon cartoons as a child. There was a cartoon in the 1980s called *The Flight*

Of Dragons which I used to enjoy. It was the story of four wizards, who were struggling to keep magic alive in a world of scientific discovery. One of the wizards hatched an evil plan to change the world, and one of the other magicians sent his dragon, Gorbash, to stop him. The dragon on my forearm is based on Gorbash.

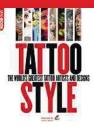
WHAT DO YOUR FAMILY THINK **ABOUT IT?**

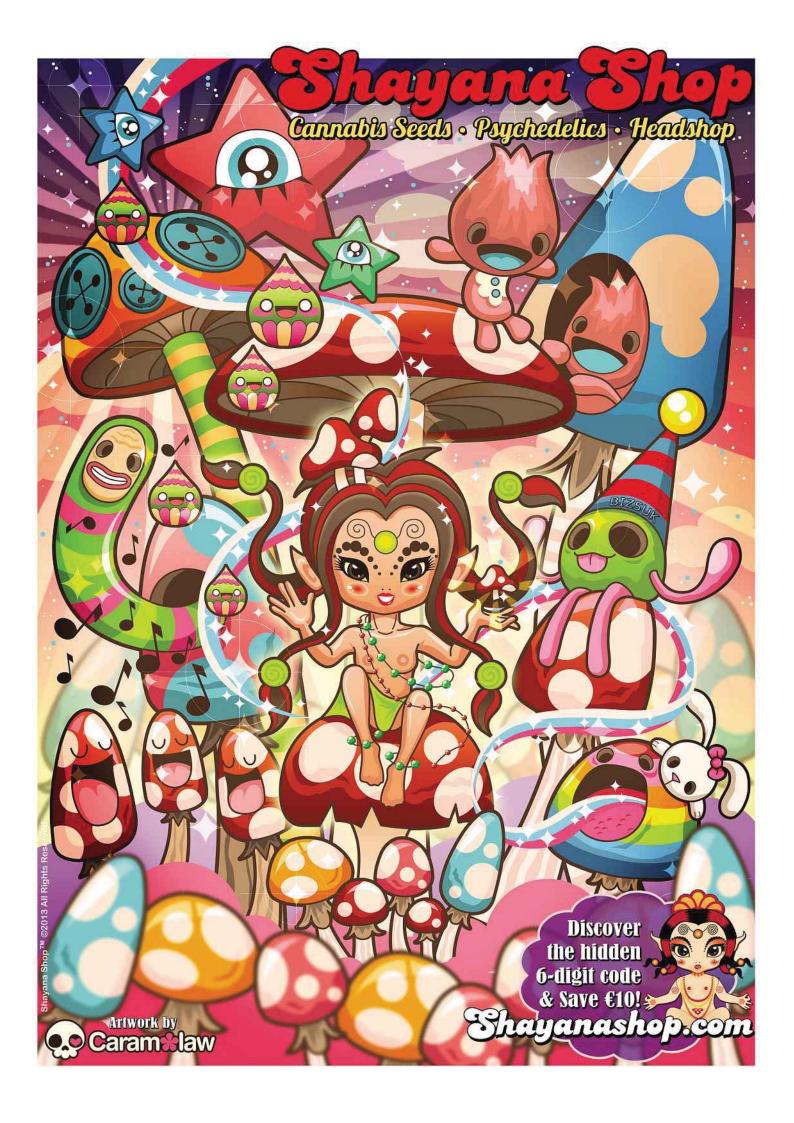
Most of my family really like my tattoos, but my girlfriend's grandmother doesn't like them at all!

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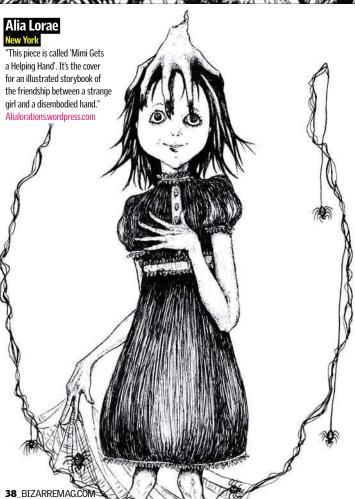












Manchester
"My work has focused on alternative imagery for many years. I like to create vibrant cartoon images and contrast them with dark humour and sinister themes."

Darylhobsonartwork.co.uk









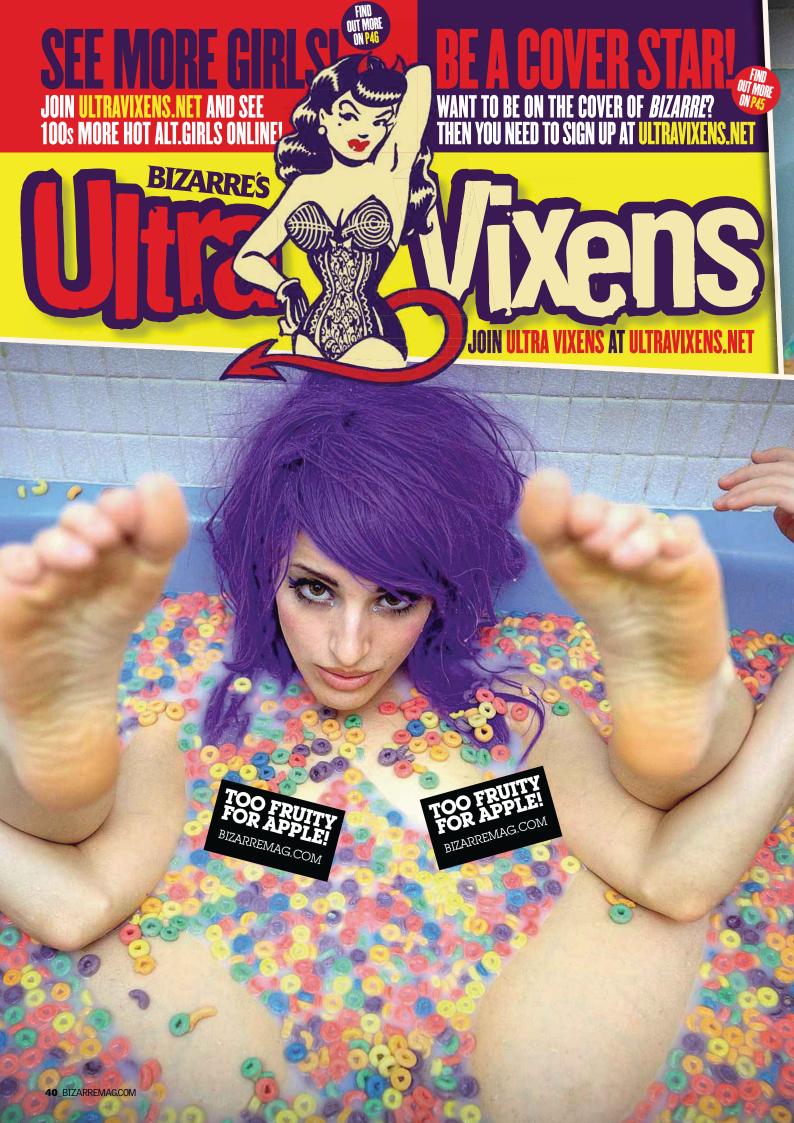
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Each month we'll will be scouring UltraVixens.net for new stars. When we've spotted 10 girls we like, we'll invite them to take part in a photoshoot in London, which will be printed in Bizarre. If any of the girls make the grade, they'll appear on the cover, just like PoppyThorn did (below)! Up for the challenge? Then sign up at **UltraVixens.net** and hit the 'Make Me A Cover Star' button on your profile page!





Bizarre art director dave kelsall and mandatron judge new arrivals on <u>ultravixens.Net</u>



Mandatron says: "Little Leila may only be 5ft 2in tall, but her fetish for platform heels will keep her towering over her obedient subs. Watch her seductive leg-swinging pole dancing in action on her Ultra Vixen profile!"



Dave Kelsall says: "Lovely necklace... what does it say? UNT? Not sure what an UNT is? All Bizarre covers used to looked like this – great stuff!

Mandatron says: "Holy smokes! I'm pretty sure this girl could nail any fetish shoot you can think of. Smoking nun? Check. Naked in a bath of blood? Check. Whips'n'bondage? Check-a-lecka-ding-dong!'



but Rose manages to pull it off I think... or not as the case may be...





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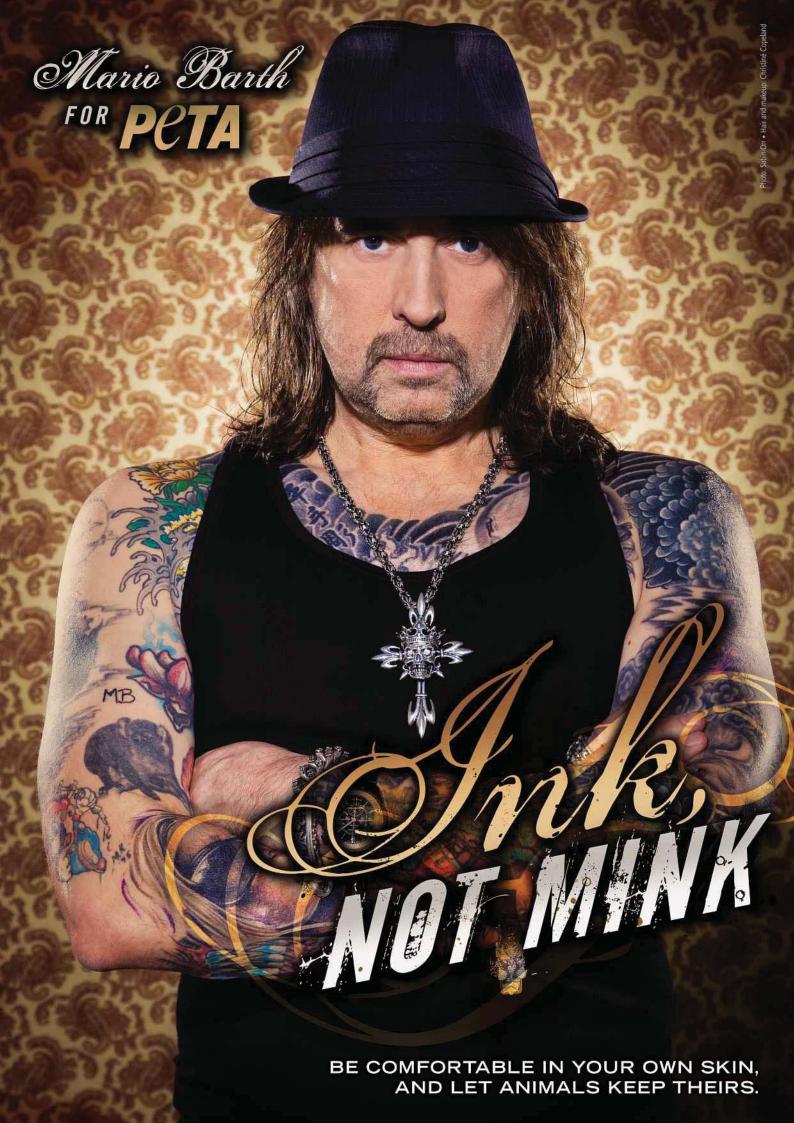
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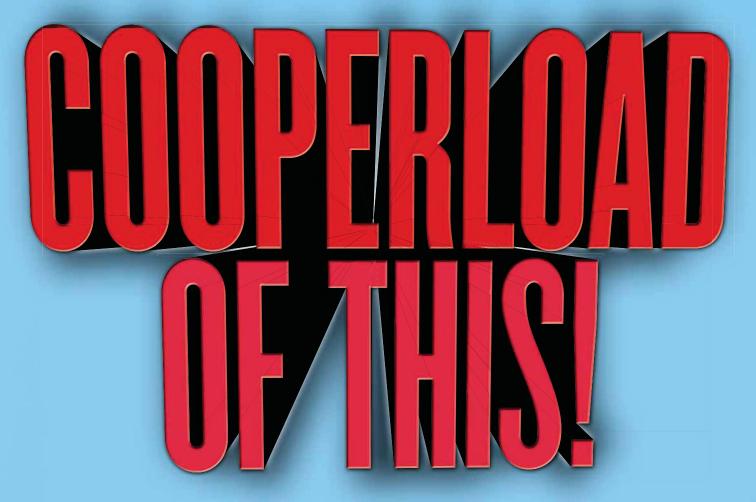
JOIN ULTRAVIXENS.NET AND CHAT TO YOUR FAVOURITE GIRLS 1-2-1!

Kitty Brooker (below) is one of our latest LIVE CHAT girls. Sign up and head to UltraVixens.net/kitty-brooker to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of LIVE CHAT Ultra Vixens, go to UltraVixens.net/live









Inflatable sharks. Metal teeth. Ladyboys. And boosting couples' sex lives with her sizzling all-round appeal... Solar-powered goddess **Ellis Cooper** dumps her *Bizarre* virginity in some serious style. Get this lady to the seaside, quick!

WORDS
STEPHEN DAULTREY
PHOTOS RAHZI
HAIR & MAKE-UP
MARCELA HONDA
STYLING
ELLIS COOPER

llis Cooper is a 21-year-old inked princess who's originally from Sunderland, but now resides in dear old smokey London. She's engaged to the singer of electronic rockers Modestep, and has been cavorting her heavenly presence across numerous hip publications for three years now. But, she says, her heart belongs to *Bizarre*.

Strangely, we couldn't find much in the way of a biography for Ellis online (other than a bunch of incredibly hot pictures), but when we asked her to reveal some key facts about herself she instantly responded with, "I hate pizza. I've never eaten a fresh pear. I'm training in knife combat. I'd like to deface a £10 note and turn the Queen's face into a skull. And I really want a kitten."

Bizarre has warmed to this girl quicker than it takes a hot grill to melt a tub of ice cream. (Not that we'd ever stick ice cream under the grill...)

Lovely to meet you, Ellis. How does it feel to be in the pages of *Bizarre*?

Pretty darn great. I'm a big fan, so to be your cover girl makes me feel all warm and fuzzy.

Speaking of warm, there's a lovely summer theme to your shoot. Are you the type of person who gets randy in warm weather?

I'm very much a solar-powered human, to be honest. I love the sun. The sun makes everything so much nicer. And any excuse to get a little more naked is always appealing, too. As for more randy, I'm not so sure. Take me to the beach and we'll see about that...

Well, that's our first great offer of 2013. It's just a shame that we're currently interviewing you while it's -2°C outside. If you could be the superheroine Shark Woman or Crocodile Woman, who would you choose and why?

SHARK WOMAN! Sharks have a theme tune. Crocodiles don't. →



You're wearing inflatable armbands in your shoot. Are you actually a good swimmer? Or would you sink to the bottom if we plopped you in a bit of water?

Truthfully, I swim like a brick, which isn't very sexy, I know. I wish I could say I'm some kind of exotic mermaid, but I'm definitely, *definitely* not.

OK, let's not talk about the beach, because it's snowing outside now. We noticed on Twitter that you were bemoaning the fact that TV commercials are ruining ZZ Top's music. We're with you. Are you a ZZ Top fan? Oh yes, I'm a huge, huge fan of ZZ Top. It does make me a bit annoyed that companies are using their music for really shit adverts. I'll protest it if it continues.

ZZ Top have awesome beards. Are you a fan of bearded men?

I like a good beard. I think a good, well-groomed beard, complemented by a face tattoo and a few metal teeth make for a fantastic combo.

You date Josh Friend from the live electronic band Modestep who doesn't, as far as we can gather, have metal teeth or a giant, ginger beard. How did you guys get together?
We're actually engaged, much to the disappointment of his female fans. We met last year when he wanted me for a music video.
I went to meet him at a show in Newcastle, and we have been inseparable pretty much ever since.

Do you have any crazy tales to regale from life on the road?

I'm sure Josh has plenty. I went to Las Vegas with Josh and Modestep last summer and he proposed to me on stage at the EDC (Electric Daisy Carnival) festival. I still haven't got over the embarrassment. Haha!

You have an 'ask me anything' section on your website. That's pretty brave. Have you been asked some strange things on there?

A regular one is "Can I drink your bath water?" or "What size are your tits?". I welcome all these weird and wonderful questions, though... they're a lot more interesting than "What did you have for dinner today?" →

"A COUPLE AT THE LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION REMARKED THAT I'D HELPED THEM GET THEIR SEX LIFE BACK"





FACE TATTOO AND A FEW METAL TEETH MAKE FOR A FANTASTIC COMBO!"

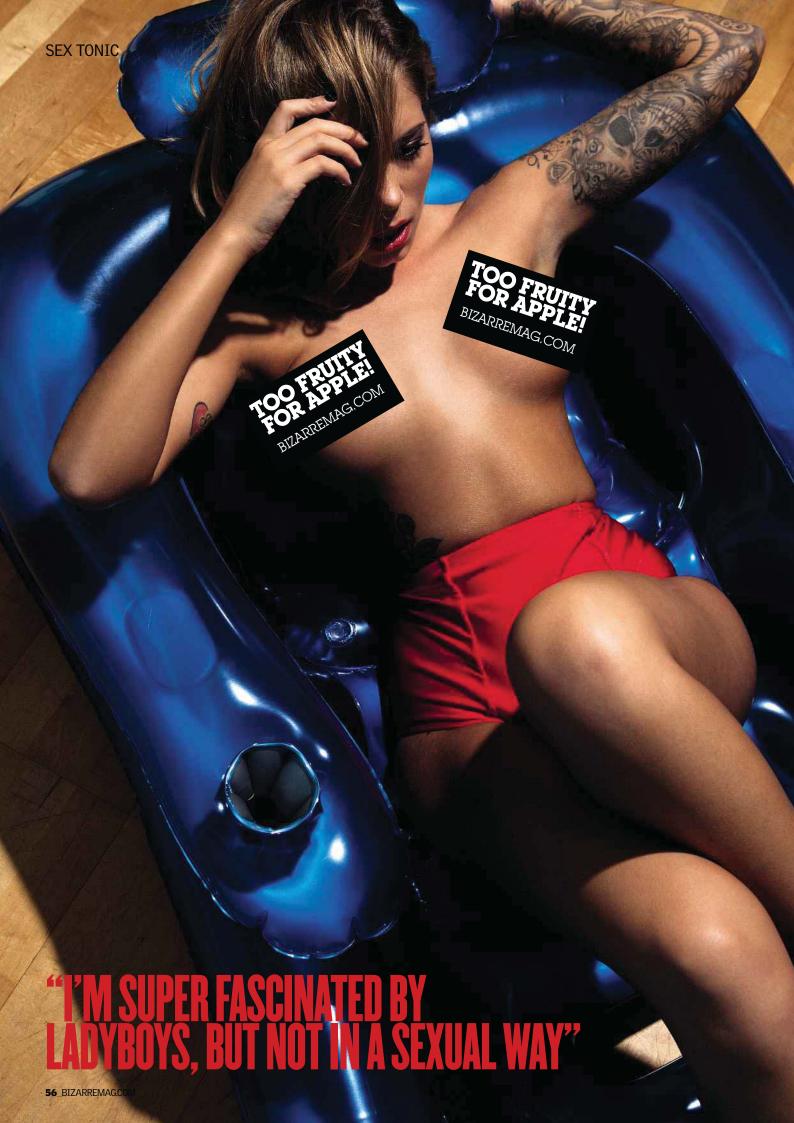




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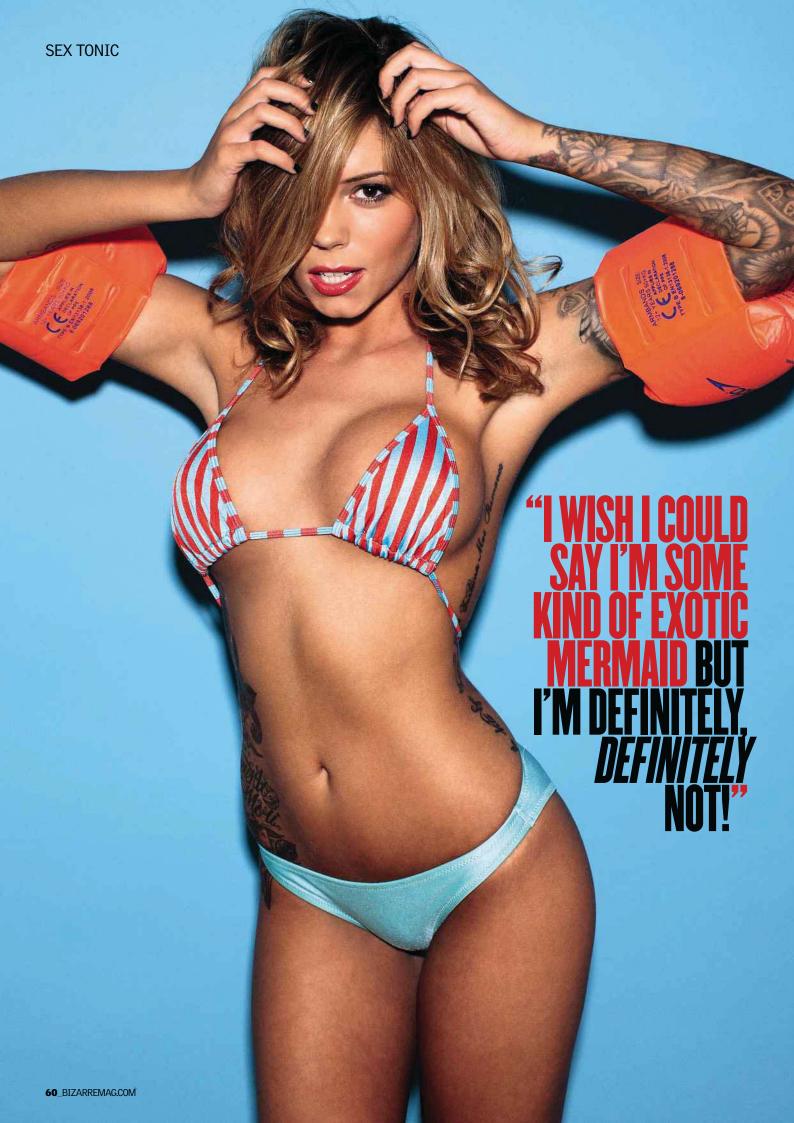
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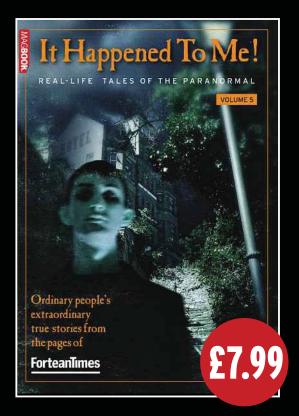


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Outsider musician. Foul-mouthed poet. Militant transvestite. Gas mask-wearing noize experimenter. Billy Childish collaborator. Unpublished author of *Hitler's Pants*. Owner of an inbred feline. Discover why **Sexton Ming** is the finest 'cult' artiste you've possibly never ever heard of, but definitely should...

WORDS STEPHEN DAULTREY
PHOTOS SEXTON MING

exton Ming is sitting in his North
London flat telling *Bizarre* about his
new musical project, an "avant-garde,
noize, atmosphere" act called SLOG
that he cooked up with his partner-incrime, Wajid Yaseen. "We make real bowel-moving
shit," Ming reveals mischievously, spooning
a fluffy chunk of jacket potato into his mouth.
"We're planning to lock punters into the venue
so that they can't escape, then we'll

see how long we can play for. But if the music proves too much for us, we'll climb out of the window on a rope ladder, leaving the music on loop."

This isn't a fictional band or a wind-up. It's

the real deal, and so-called because it's "a fucking hard slog to listen to". Which is great, really. In fact, it's a show that *Bizarre* urges you to investigate should the opportunity arise because, as fringe artists go, they don't get much

more fringe than Sexton Ming.

A founding member of performance punk-poet group The Medway Poets in 1979 (along with other artists including Billy Childish and Charles Thomson), Ming is an all-swearing artistic renegade who's spent the last 35 years scraping a living together through his ragged, idiosyncratic art - be it poetry, painting or music. He's recorded some 30 odd albums, and sung about everything from bacon sandwiches to xenophobic Belgians, his music veering from guirky 12-bar blues to hook-heavy space cabaret. He's cavorted →





through the streets of London as a militant transvestite, and written a novel about Adolf Hitler's underpants while institutionalised for manic depression. And he has also just released a brand new album - Protect And Survive - on picture disc vinyl (below), which has left the Bizarre office excited and intrigued.

When we're greeted into Ming's abode on a snowy day to listen to the new record, the first thing we see is a handsome cat purring for attention. We're poised to stroke the moggy until Ming warns us that the poor thing's "a little bit unhinged". "He comes from a strange family where I think his mother was a nymph, and his father is also his brother," he explains, ducking into the kitchen to check on the spuds roasting in the oven. "He's

Welcome to the crazy and colourful world of Sexton Ming.

But he does suddenly

normally lovely.

go psycho..."

THE GREAT COLLABORATOR

Ming, who's now in his early 50s, looks every bit the rebellious, dishevelled poet. He also bears a passing resemblance to comedian Ade Edmondson, but such an observation is as convenient (or lazy) as saying he sings like Captain Beefheart. As a musician, his gruff-

throated, wayward style is unique, and he is often lauded as being a progenitor of 'outsider music' - a term Ming describes as being "untrained, self-taught and not giving a fuck about any rule book".

In 2012, Ming released Dung Beetle Rolls Again, his sixth collaboration with long-time associate, artist and fellow ex-Medway Poet, Billy Childish, which Ming describes as being akin to The Doors' LA Woman ("It has some gems,

> but you can tell they hated each other's guts!" he jokes, possibly). Ming also worked with another

Bizarre hero in 2006 - Adrian Stout of The Tiger Lillies

 and released A Taste Of Wood, which featured acid jazzy synths, bizarre fictional bedhoppers, and Velvet Underground-style string accompaniments to tales of paddling pools for hippos. A Taste Of Wood was a hugely entertaining album, and Ming has fond memories of recording it. But it's onto the present we

triumphantly march, and new album Protect And Survive. Released as a limited edition vinyl picture disc that boasts Ming's own artwork and two extra tracks, there is also a download version for those who don't get their grubby mitts on one of its 300-only limited run. "I hadn't done vinyl for ages and totally forgot how it works,"

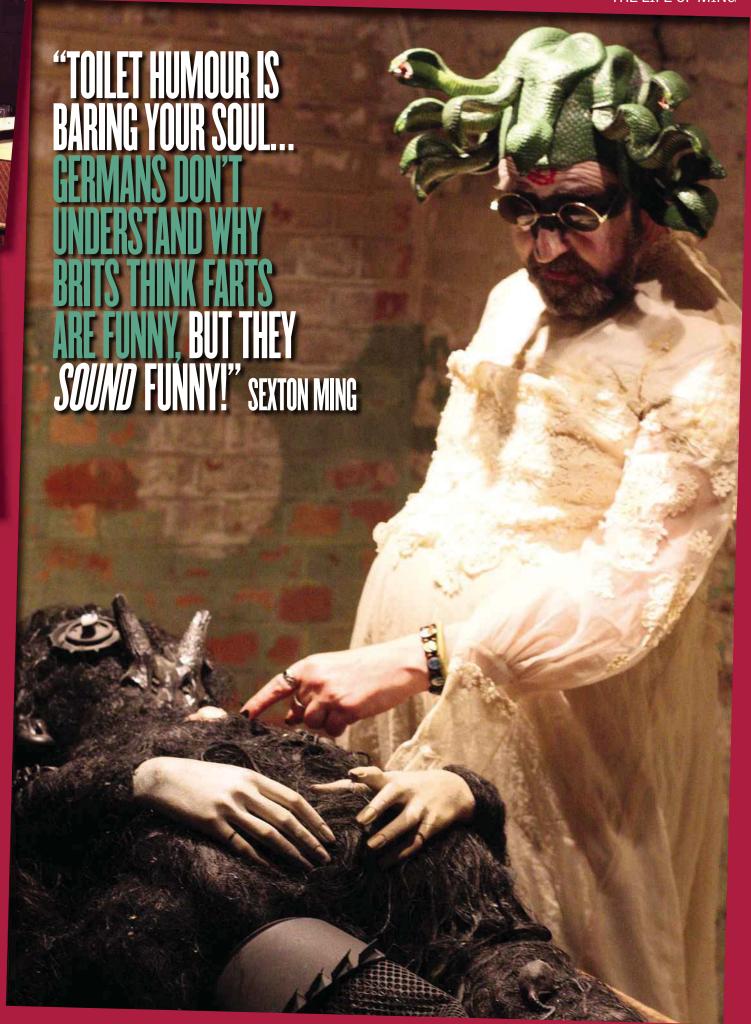
coos Ming. "It's great. You choose a great opener and a great ending, then you move onto side two, where you need another blockbuster to kick it off with. You lost that with CDs and then digital."

The two-sided approach means that *Protect* And Survive is also more eclectic than some of Ming's previous releases. There are dancey tracks, singer-songwriter acoustic tracks (check out 'The Look Of Len', a weird spacey take on Burt Bacharach's 'The Look Of Love') and darker, ambient numbers, all springing up jubilantly and unpredictably across the two sides.

Ming attributes the album's wildly different styles to the field recordings he initially made for the albums. "I took a recorder out onto buses, and recorded myself performing in car parks," he says. "The varying atmospheres dictated the mood of each individual track, whether they're silly, dark or dancey. Most of my albums will get you into the groove and then throw you, but this album is very 'choppy-changey'. There's also a pagan reason for us releasing it in May. My co-mixer and 'tamperer', Luther Blissett, says that if we release it on 1 May, the gods will smile on us and sell all the copies and make us loads of money!"

ARTY FARTS

Throughout his career, Ming's work has often been tongue-in-cheek - but just as it can be weird and funny, it can also be dark, spiritual, surreal and beautiful. It all depends on his mood, which flits in a heartbeat. He's certainly not shy of good old-fashioned toilet humour, though. When he launched his first solo art exhibition in 2005, he called it 'Be Crappy' after a picture he'd drawn of a clown taking a dump. In person, Ming ->







"IS JESUS THE NEW ROCK'N'ROLL? I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE JESUS IS THE NEW SATAN!" SEXTON MING

swears absolutely fucking shit-loads, a habit he developed from growing up in a rough part of Gravesend, Kent, and rebelling against his "working class parents" who "pretended to be something they weren't". It makes him all the more entertaining – like an unrefined mutant blend of Peter Cook, Ivor Cutler, and Jim Royle from TV sitcom *The Royle Family*.

"To me toilet humour is baring your soul," chuckles Ming, well aware of how equally ridiculous and brilliant that statement sounds. "It's important, just like a sick joke, because it diffuses horror so you can deal with it. The Germans don't understand why Brits find farts funny, but farts *sound* funny. Jim Royle is a great character. He's all, 'I paid £1 for these pants, and 50p of it is up me arse!' You understand that guy. He's not trying to impress you with his wit or intelligence. Besides, what's wrong with being fucking childish from time to time?"

We're definitely with Ming on this one. There's nothing like a good poo or willy gag to lighten the mood. But some people have had a problem Ming's cruder inclinations. The British cartoonist Ralph Steadman, who worked with hedonistic gonzo legend Hunter S Thompson, once dubbed Ming a "failed intellectual" when the Medway legend read an expletive-addled poem with his trousers around his ankles. But Ming says it's impossible to shock people these days.

"In the early days of the Medway Poets, Charles Thomson read a poem that was all, 'Cunt, cunt, cunt...', and he's the most nerdy, accountant-looking guy you'll ever see, and he's also really well spoken," Ming recalls. "Audiences were going, 'What the fuck is this'? But the punk ethic has changed everyone's outlook. The last time people were shocked was when The Sex Pistols swore on the Today programme in 1976. It's all so mainstream now. At one time you'd say you were gay, and your friends would be, 'Quick, lads, bums to the wall!' Nowadays to get a reaction like that you need to say, 'I go to church every Sunday'. If you say, 'I worship Satan', people will go, 'Yeah, nice one mate, rock'n'roll!' But if you say, 'I believe in Jesus', people don't want to go near you!"

So is Jesus is the new rock'n'roll?
"I think it's more like Jesus is the new
Satan. Not literally of course, but you
get what I mean..."

SEX-TON WHEELS

But if people have become harder to shock, Ming has never lost his desire to draw extreme reactions or

challenge public conceptions.

In the 1990s he went through
a militant transvestite
phase, when he fell in
with well-known "freaks"
such as Australian
performance artist/designer
Leigh Bowery, who formed
the band Minty, and started
dressing as a woman

in public. Ming confesses that he

has been a closet cross-dresser since childhood, and in the 90s decided that he wanted to see if he could gain the 'scene' some social acceptance. "It was nearly the turn of the century, but people still had a fucking problem with guys experimenting with femininity," he says. "So I went out there to be proud and visual about it."

And he didn't disappoint. Living life in heels and lippy for days on end, Ming was exasperated by the hostility he faced from the gay community. He devised the slogan 'Equal Rights For Transvestites', which he thought had a real ring to it and would nestle nicely alongside Gay Pride and Riot Grrrl. "The straights gave it the usual, 'Oi, you fucking poof', but gay people were hostile because they felt us 'freaks' were giving them a bad name through our fierce and 'piss-takey' behaviour. It was all about the pink pound back then, and gay people were desperately trying to be accepted into society."

Ming's public displays of transvestism lasted for five years until he got it "out of my system so I could move onto the next thing". During that period he was "occasionally" chased down the street. But, for the most part, London was the safest place for such provocative behaviour. But now Ming feels the capital is becoming stale.

"The great thing about London is that no one gives a shit what you look like, where you come from and who you are," he says wistfully, before his enthusiasm nose-dives. "That might be changing now because London's becoming so beige and boring. I saw Wilko Johnson perform last night, the Dr Feelgood guitarist who's been diagnosed with terminal cancer. He'll probably be dead before the end of the year and it was an emotional affair, but the audience were boring. People have been homogenised since the turn of the century, and now they're oblivious to sensation." →



"I DON'T THINK I'M FAMOUS ENOUGH TO BE CRITICISED... NOBODY FUCKING KNOWS WHO I AM!" SEXTON MING

CULT OF MING

Ming has been performing a lot recently. The impending SLOG shows see him back to his crazy and inventive best. For those gigs, he promises to wear his gas mask with a microphone inside, which will be filtered through a bevy of strange effects. When we spoke, he was also set to perform at a London party to celebrate the release of *Protect And Survive*. But there have been times in the past where Ming has said that he'll never perform again because he suffers from post-show comedowns. Ming, who has a history of depression and mental illness, says that constant self-doubt is a nagging thorn in his side, while the preparation, expectation and adrenaline rush of performing can be a physical and mental burden.

"I don't want to sound arty farty, because there are harder jobs out there," he moans self-consciously. "But there is an element of being naked when you're on stage. Sure, I'm excited by the new stuff, but afterwards I'll probably take a break. I'm planning to move to Hastings with my wife (anti-conceptual 'Stuckist' artist, Ella Guru) where I'll paint some watercolours, sell them for £50, and then fuck the rest of it! After a while you get tired and disillusioned, but I always come back."

Despite his unconventional career, Ming says he originally got into music after watching footage of Jimi Hendrix rip up Monterey, and decided that playing guitar would be a fantastic way to make lots of money and bed loads of women. He just took a detour along the way. But despite the penniless struggle of his chosen profession, he's still somehow survived to be one of the nation's most original, interesting and largely undiscovered artists. He's built up a "small cult following" that should be

cult following" that should be bigger than it is. However, on a recent trip to a record shop, he did discover one of his old CD box sets called *Revenge* lurking on the rarities shelf. "It featured a guy on an anarchist radio bragging that he was

going to break a world record for serial killing, which I had put over a Hawkwind-style space jam," says Ming. "When I enquired about the one for sale, the shop guy said, 'Sexton Ming is really favourable at the moment', and told me that the box would set me back £100. I didn't buy it, of course. I have a copy at home."

But if mainstream success has eluded Ming, critics have nearly always been firmly on his side. Like some great underground secret, people who know Ming's outsider art are usually fans who rarely have a bad word to say about him. So what does Ming think about how these 'critics' react to his work? He nearly spits out the final chunk of his jacket potato, causing his "psycho" cat to jump. "Really, I don't think I'm famous enough

to be criticised," he grins. "No one fucking knows who I am!"
For more, check out SextonMing.co.uk
The new album *Protect And Survive* is available now as a limited edition picture disc vinyl and as download, courtesy of Ex Gratia. Visit Punkvert.tv

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KINKY KIDNAPPING



was ambushed in a deserted and dark forest car park by two females who wrestle, and after several minutes of grappling I was completely overpowered," recalls kinky kidnap blogger

'Mr Stockholm'. "The physicality of the snatch made it feel genuinely threatening, terrifying and dangerous. It was the first time I had 'met' my kidnappers and the sense of unknowing beforehand stoked the hellish doubts filling my mind."

UK-based Mr Stockholm is talking about the first time he'd arranged to be the victim in an erotic kidnap fantasy – in this case with Mistress Pip and Mistress Kali. Mr Stockholm, who is submissive and in his 40s, says he has been visiting dominatrices for 20 years, but had found his interests in BDSM waning. So, in order to reignite his desires, he began to search for something more extreme... and his thoughts soon turned to kidnapping.

Since 2011, Mr Stockholm has been 'grabbed' and subsequently 'abused' numerous times by a variety of domineering captors, nearly all genetic women bar one transsexual ("My motto is 'don't be shy!" Mr Stockholm says). He records his experiences in a highly entertaining and adult online blog at Dominatrixkidnap.blogspot.co.uk, which gets "many" visitors, proving that he is not alone in his kinky tastes.

"My ideal combination is a brutal abduction followed by some brutal torture, but then a shift in pace towards something more gentle that brings me emotionally close to my captor," he says. "My scene name is derived from



'Stockholm Syndrome' – the phenomenon where a hostage falls for their abductor. And I guess that's where my ultimate fantasies lie..."

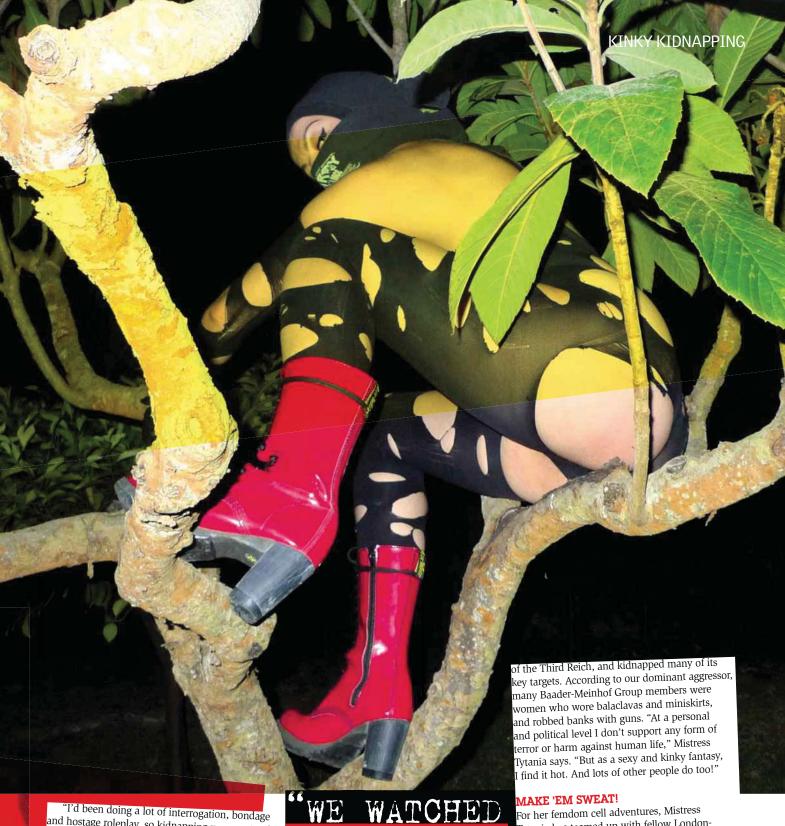
BODYSNATCHIN' BITCH!

As deviant roleplays go, abduction is one of the most intense and gruelling. It's also arguably the most ambitious, given the amount of preparation required, not to mention the level of risk involved, including police interference. A few years ago the US company Extreme Kidnapping, and the French company Ultime Réalité, grabbed newspaper headlines for offering designer kidnap experiences, predominately targeting rich adrenaline junkies or 'security' professionals preparing for real-life scenarios. One kidnapping service, it was reported, had

also begun catering for kinksters by offering miniskirted action-women as its intimidating kidnappers. But if you desire similar experiences in the UK, your options to date have been rather less broad. But now everything has changed...

Mistress Tytania is a pro domme based in London. With a background in performance art, she set up her fantasy website The Urban Chick Supremacy Cell (UC-SC) back in 2010, providing femdom content and services with a military, boot camp twist. When a submissive male approached her enquiring about public kidnap fantasies, she couldn't wait to get started. Mistress Tytania was soon evolving her site to take the form of a fantasy terror cell, specialising in re-educating "sexist male pigs" into the culture of female supremacy.





"I'd been doing a lot of interrogation, bondage and hostage roleplay, so kidnapping was a natural progression," she reveals, displaying a charm that seems a far cry from the ruthless cell leader inhabiting her pictures. "I had played a kidnap scenario some time ago with another female, but our victim was snatched from a fetish club which made it easy because we could do what we wanted anyway! My most recent kidnap with UC-SC was in public and carried a far greater risk, but that made it so much more exciting."

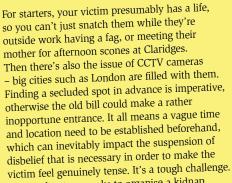
All balaclavas, ripped fishnets and stompy Doc Marten boots, Mistress Tytania says her fantasy terror cell takes its aesthetic cue from the Baader-Meinhof Group (or Red Army Faction, as it later became known); an anarchist organisation that was active from the late 1960s until the 1990s, it considered the West German capitalist establishment as little more than a reincarnation

WE WATCHEL
OUR VICTIM
FROM A
NEARBY CAR.
HE DIDN T
KNOW WE
WERE

For her femdom cell adventures, Mistress
Tytania has teamed up with fellow Londonbased domme, Ms Slide, a popular mistress
specialising in all sorts of naughty thrills. Their
most recent adventure involved snatching a guy
off the street in London, and driving him back to
their studio for a kinky two-hour 'interrogation'.

"On the night of the kidnap, we were sending him text messages instructing him to go to places where we'd make him wait, before directing him elsewhere," Mistress Tytania reveals cunningly. "It was dark and he didn't know what we looked like. We were in a nearby car, and at one point he got very, very close. We were watching him intently, and you could see he didn't know where to look or what to look for. He was nervous. It was like playing hide-and-seek as children."

Aside from basic espionage skills, 'fetish' kidnapping requires massive groundwork. →



"It takes two weeks to organise a kidnap, and you can't do it alone," says Mistress Tytania. "We start the experience by posting threatening letters to our target signed "IT CAN
TAKE MORE
THAN TWO
WEEKS TO
SET UP
A KIDNAP"

by the UC-SC, warning them that they're being watched. Of course, it would be brilliant if we were given a larger time frame where we could do the snatch at any time. I'd love to do that next!"

Mr Stockholm, however, has been fortunate to try such an elaborate snatch before, in this case with the pro dommes Lady Louella and Mistress Nuit. He gave the pair a two-week window in which to snatch him, along with a diary of his movements for that period. Being unemployed at the time, he was more flexible.

"I thought the uncertainty would be easy to deal with, but Lady Louella and Mistress Nuit devised cunning ways to keep me off balance," he says. "In one instance, I was in my local restaurant when a woman I'd never seen before strode in and deposited an enveloped on my table and marched off. I was nervous, but I had to play it cool, lest the staff who I already knew well read too much into the incident.

"Finally, I snuck off to the gents to open the compromising missive in private, only to find a card reading 'We are watching you'. Every van that drove past suddenly presented a threat. Every stranger on a mobile phone near my house became an accomplice. Not knowing when the trap is to be sprung is mentally exhausting. My sleep during that kidnap window was broken and sweaty. Those ladies captured my mind long before they took possession of my body..."

BIND! TORTURE! THRILL!

For most kidnap enthusiasts, it's the tension around the snatch that provides the chief thrill. But once they've found themselves bagged and manhandled into a vehicle, there is still the physical 'torture' and interrogation to come. Rather than divulging his personal preference for any form of play, Mr Stockholm just says he likes the torture to be "brutal" and left to his captor's whims. "If I prescribe too much of what is to happen, it reduces the tension," he says.





him," she says. "He was a sexist male specimen, and our aim was to re-educate him into femdom. The most 'sexual' torture we did was piss waterboarding, which is where you put a thick cloth over the victim's face and soak it. When they breathe the moisture sticks to their skin and nostrils. It's suffocating and gives the sensation of drowning. We did this with our piss."

Ms Tytania describes her interrogations as being much like any other femdom session, with her victims tied, humiliated and beaten But for those who harbour kidnap fantasies, the preceding abduction intensifies the subsequent roleplay to unbelievable heights.

Another British male sub operating under the scene name of 'Kevin' has harboured abduction fantasies since childhood, but combines it with his fetish for ball-busting and being beaten up by superior females.

"I remember as a kid watching a scene in the 1980s comedy Inner-Space where a man was kidnapped and held in a refrigerated van, where an older woman with leather gloves said she would 'warm him up' and poised her leather glove at his crotch to squeeze his balls," Kevin recalls. "Kidnapping and abuse have always gone well together for me. I've never acted out a proper full-on abduction scene as yet, but I'd love to try it one day. I've been kicked

equipment and clear plastic sheeting everywhere, and then be totally abused..."

ADRENALINE JUNKIES

Despite the demanding preparation, both Mistress Tytania and Ms Slide find executing kidnap fantasies utterly exhilarating. For them the level of risk merely fuels the fun.

"There are so many factors that could go wrong," says Mistress Tytania. "You're doing this in public and people could see you and call the police, but that's what it makes it even more exciting. I'm a woman of action. I rock climb. I crave adrenaline. On our last snatch, three or four people walked past on the other side of road. They didn't stop or stare, though. That's the great British public: people don't give a shit! But we were also filming the kidnap, and because we were doing so in an 'artistic' area, people presumed we were making an art project. That's what we'd tell the police if they turned up."

Mistress Tytania and Ms Slide are already tinkering with the idea of staging a kidnap session in a forest, with the wilderness providing a secluded hunting ground for striking fear deep into the heart of their prey.

"The idea of chasing someone in the woods is thrilling," says Mistress Tytania, grinning widely. Years ago I took part in a slave hunt in a forest

"I'D LOVE
TO BE KIDNAPPED BUSED!

in Devon where we chased naked slaves. That was just like hide-and-seek as well. It was great!"

Mr Stockholm has certainly got the bug too, and is ecstatic at how much it has rekindled his interest in femdom kink. Now he can't wait to write about his adventures in his online blog.

"What sets kidnapping apart from any other form of BDSM is the sense of prolonged unknowing," he says. "It's an adrenaline rush that accelerates as 'K-day' approaches, and will end up filling every spare moment that I have. By the time that hood is forced over my head, I'm begging to be taken away and released from my anguish. It rocks!" (B)

To find out more, check out Uc-sc-femdom.com, Mstytania.net and Sliderulesyou.com. You can find Mr Stockholm's blog at Dominatrixkidnap.blogspot.co.uk **CUTE GORE**

Mashing the macabre with the cute, and the gory with the delightful, the art of **Luke Chueh** has been a hit with rock stars, tattooists and *Bizarre* readers alike. Want to discover the man behind the tortured bears? Read on...

WORDS STEPHEN DAULTREY PICTURES ALL ART © LUKE CHUEH, USED WITH PERMISSION

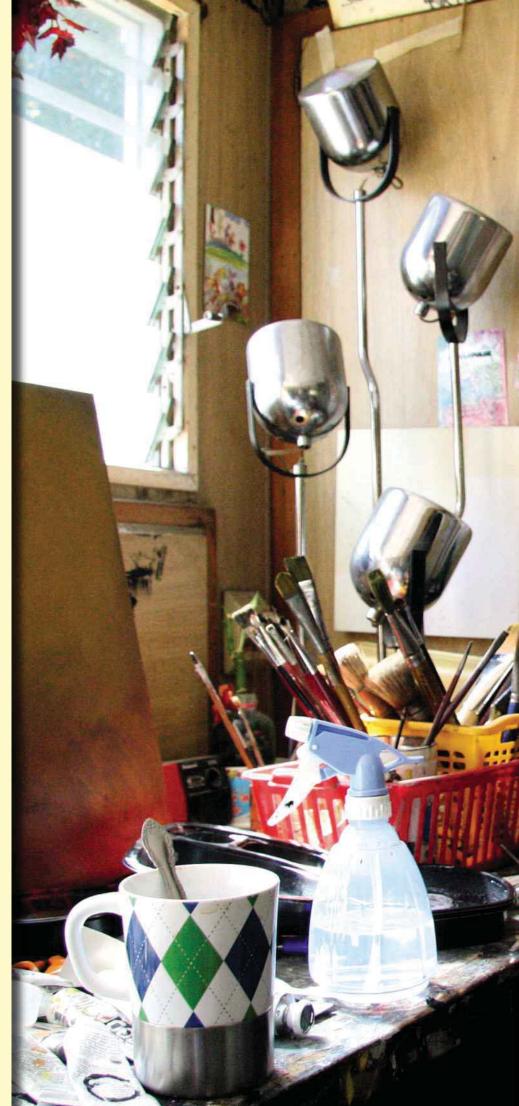
uke Chueh is one of the most recognised, revered and hip artists in the world today. Specialising in minimalist, figurative paintings that often get branded with the 'lowbrow' tag (to Chueh's reported disdain), his paintings normally see sad-eyed bears – and occasionally rabbits and a few other beasts – enduring all sorts of gnarly shit.

But as brutal as they are tinged with pathos, Chueh's quirky-cool pictures are also wry, ironic, sardonic, biographical and – OH MY GOD!

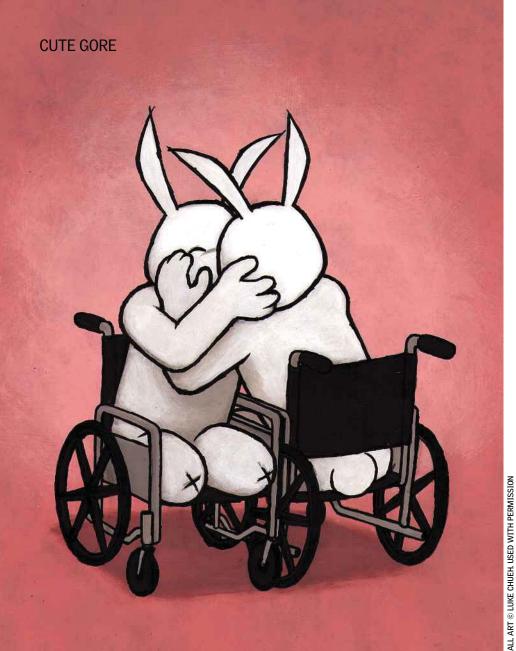
– ever so fucking cute. So what if a bear has just plucked out his own eyeballs? Don't you want to give him a big hug and slobbery kiss on the cheek, before dragging him off to bed with your hot water botty and Spidey jim-jams?

Born in 1973 in Philadelphia, but now a resident of Los Angeles, Luke Chueh originally wanted to be a graphic designer. That didn't quite work out. Instead, in the mid-2000s he got his first big break as an illustrator and painter at the Cannibal Flower art show in LA.

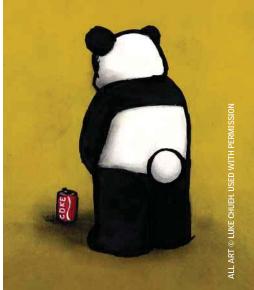
Since then, Cheuh has written and designed a magazine about weird and 'intelligent dance music' (IDM), and designed ads for guitar strings manufacturer Ernie Ball. His ever-growing →











"MY FRIEND AND I **decided we were c**are bears" luke cheuh

army of celebrity fans now includes members of emo rockers Good Charlotte and Fall Out Boy, the latter for whom Cheuh designed the album art for 2008's *Folie à Deux*.

As well as his awesome pictures, Chueh has also designed a range of vinyl toys that include 'Decapitated Bear Heads' and a 'Possessed' bear with giant claws. There's also a BDSM My Little Pony project, created for a 2011 exhibition where Chueh's cute pastelpink toys indulged their kinky side and wore gimp masks. Right up *Bizarre*'s street, then.

Last year, Titan Books published a sprawling, comprehensive collection of his work entitled *The Art of Luke Chueh:* Bearing The Unbearable. With all this excitement and bear-badgering activity, we decided to track down the man behind those tortured, hapless bears... and discovered a super-cool guy.

Here at *Bizarre* we're still digging *The Art Of Luke Chueh: Bearing The Unbearable.* Had the idea for this book been in the pipeline for a while?

Ever since I began showing my art in Los Angeles, I scanned and documented every

painting I created, hoping that there might one day be a book of my work – I think most artists dream of that. So when LA pop art specialists Gallery1988 approached me with the idea, I couldn't say 'no'. The process took over a year, but I'm happy with the results.

You've said that the first question people always ask you is, "Why a bear?" So we're going to ask, "Why the rabbits?" (But feel free to tell us about the bears as well...)

I use bears because I picked up that nickname or pet name with friends and past girlfriends. There was also a time when my friend and I were dabbling with hallucinogens, and we decided we were Care Bears. For years later she and I would refer to each other as 'Jaime Bear' and 'Luke Bear'. When I started painting in 2003, it seemed like the right character to represent me. As for rabbits, they're creatures rife with symbolism. They're notorious fornicators, they're fast and over-confident, they're 'cute' and, for some reason, they resonate deep in our psyche. Considering the kind of work I do, I think incorporating a rabbit into my visual lexicon makes sense.

Do you have any fond childhood memories of teddy bears?

I had a teddy bear that I received from my folks when I was five-years-old. It was the only teddy bear I really remember loving. It was beige and wore red overalls. Nowadays I don't really collect teddy bears, but I do have plenty of bear-themed toys that I have either personally collected or were gifts from friends or fans.

We love your 'Saturn Devours His Son (Rabbid Remix)', which reinterprets one of the most terrifying paintings ever (Francisco Goya's 'Saturn Devouring His Son'). Are you a fan of the original?

I'm a huge fan of the original. It's one of the paintings that helped me come to terms with incorporating gore and violence into my work. My version of 'Saturn Devours...' is definitely a homage to that Goya masterpiece.

Can you see yourself remixing other 'disturbing' classics? A Caravaggio decapitation, perhaps?

I can definitely see myself taking on more classics. Rembrandt's 'The Anatomy Lesson

For all the scenes of cannibalism, dismemberment, blood and gore in your paintings, one thing that stands out is the sadness in your characters' eyes (think 'I Asked For Scrambled', 'The Queen Is Dead', 'Another Useless Gift'). Your pictures can be despairingly sad, albeit in a humorous and 'aww'-inducing way. Is there a trick to creating such unique pathos?

If there is a 'trick' to making my paintings work, I'd say it's my sincerity. I think that my paintings are undeniably a reflection of myself, and the paintings you refer to were created while I was struggling with a serious substance abuse problem. I've since deduced that the blood and gore was a metaphor for my addiction. I've been sober now for over two years, and though I still deal with depression regularly, I can definitely see my work moving away from blood and gore and maybe embracing a more 'sardonic' message. I'm excited to see how my work evolves in the future.

You mentioned earlier that you had trouble coming to terms with the gory aspect to your work. Is this why?

I guess I was also afraid that collectors would be turned off to the darker, bloody stuff. I couldn't imagine them wanting to show images of bears ripping themselves to pieces. But I felt that the imagery would be an interesting contrast to my character design.

Do you ever get children running screaming from your work and devastated that their cute, lovable bears are being hurt in dramatic ways? Nope. Kids love my work!

Without overlooking what your pictures are about, do you ever see a Bunny Suicides

picture or even an Itchy And Scratchy cartoon and think, "Oh yeah, that's good..." I always get excited when I see anything that shares a similar visual aesthetic to me. I think

shares a similar visual aesthetic to me. I think it helps reinforce my feelings that what I'm doing is also a reflection of the times.

You did the album art for Fall Out Boy's Folie à Deux in 2008. How did that collaboration come about?

My friends at Gallery 1988 approached me about it. As I understand, the guys in Fall Out Boy are friends with Joel Madden of Good Charlotte, who was one of my biggest collectors. Madden even had a room dedicated to my work. Pete Wentz of Fall Out Boy was then introduced to my art through Madden, which led to our partnership.

Josh Madden, brother of Good Charlotte's Joel, says that to meet you is to "understand what your soul truly is". How would you describe your soul?

My friends say I'm "the happiest sad person" they know. That's probably not really answering your question, but I'm not really sure how to describe my soul. Maybe 'a dark, yet colourful mass with a pinhole of light shining through the centre'?

You're a fan of uniquely weird and brilliant electronic acts, particularly on the Warp label, and post-rock. Is it strange having fans from this alt.rock/punk scene?

I guess it can seem a little contradictory, but when I moved to LA I lost touch with a lot of the indie electronic music and started listening to more indie / alternative rock. I think the narrative style of my work lends itself better to rock music rather than the more 'abstract' sensibilities of electronica and IDM.

Your toys are also ace. What toys did you play with as a kid?

Thank you! I'm flattered that you like my toys. As a kid, I played with things I think all kids in my age/economic group played with: *Star Wars* figures, Transformers, G.I. Joe and LEGO.

In the book, Patrick Lam of designer toy company Munky King recalls how he caught you shoplifting (but you weren't). What were you in fact doing?

At the time the toy company, Toy2R, were producing a toy line called Qee, which were all created by various artists and designers. There was one Qee toy that I particularly wanted, which was designed by the American artist Dalek (AKA James Marshall). But because these toys were sold in 'blind boxes', you didn't know exactly which toy you were buying. It's basically gambling. To up the odds on buying the Qee I wanted, I was trying to peek into each of the boxes, but damaging the packaging in the process. As you can imagine, this would have upset any store owner!

Have you ever shoplifted?

Yes I have shoplifted, and I mostly got away with it. But the last time I shoplifted I got caught. It's a moment I'd rather not think about.

You exhibited a BDSM My Little Pony at an art show last year. Can you tell us more about that kinky piece?

I was invited to participate in the My Little Pony show, so I started by considering all the different aspects of horse/pony culture. I landed on the fact that horses used to be branded, like cattle, as a declaration of ownership. From there I made the connection that branding was also a part of the BDSM lifestyle, so I took those elements and simply combined them. It was a fun project.

Is it true that your art gets
regularly tattooed onto
people's
bodies?
Yes,
I definitely
think it's one
of the most

flattering things a fan can do. In my eyes it means the fan connects to a painting in such an intimate way that they are inspired to have it tattooed onto their body. I think most artists would be stoked to know their work resonates with their audience in such an intense manner. Of course, I've seen as many good tattoos as I've seen bad! But, no matter what, I'm touched by the support and am happy to show peoples' ink on the 'Sightings' page of my website.

Do you have any tattoos of your own?

No, I don't have any tattoos, but I've definitely flirted with the idea. I think I'd start with my logo on my left arm.

Finally, what are your personal favourite works in the book, and why?

Some of my favorite paintings include 'The Alchemist', 'Disintegration', 'It Takes More Than A Jumpsuit', 'Another Useless Gift (Revisited)', 'Soundtrack (To My Life)', 'Swarm', 'Bear In Mind', 'Whitewash', 'Ball & Chain', and 'My True Self'. This is just a list off the top of my head. I guess the reason

why I love these paintings is because they illustrate my ideas in a way that I don't feel I could better.

It's interesting that you've also opted for less violent pictures. Going back to your earlier answers again, do you think this is because you associate the gore with your past addictions?

I can honestly say I never really thought about it like that. But after a while I definitely considered my use of violence as a bit of a 'crutch', while my 'ironic' works required me to think harder and deeper about my subjects. I also think their messages are potentially much deeper than the blatantly violent ones. Concerning my personal favourites, I think they all have their own inherent violence within the image. To me, 'The Alchemist', 'Disintegration', 'It Takes More Than A Jumpsuit', and 'Swarm' are all filled with implied violence.

The Art of Luke Chueh: Bearing The Unbearable by Luke Chueh, published by Titan books, is out now, priced

LUKE CHUEH. USED WITH PERMISSIO





The Independent Guide to the

Padmini



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Superheroines in distress. Naughty Brits. Batman perversions. And the sordid girl-on-girl adventures of O-girl... With the release of a new book called Kinky Bondage Obsession, iconic bondage photographer Jim Weathers tells Bizarre what it's like to tie up the world's kinkiest models —

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CLASSY BONDAGE

o many people,
bondage is a dirty word.
Mention it to your
average 'vanilla' plebeian
– at least one that hasn't
yet picked up a copy of
Fifty Shades Of Grey from
Heathrow – and they'll
probably envisage sweaty
chaps in gimp masks

being whipped black and blue by dommes in cheap PVC that's ripped at the butt-crack.

Bondage, however, isn't essentially cheap, dirty and tacky. Nor is it always about inflicting pain and suffering (although it can be, of course). In fact, bondage can be intimate and beautiful.

Californian photographer Jim Weathers has spent the last 15 years correcting the misnomer that bondage is scandalous and pain-oriented. Instead, his glossy images find artistic glamour in the sight of hapless women being restrained, tied-up and dominated, their impeccable forms exaggerated by skintight rubber, nylon and skyscraper heels.

Yet despite their trademark class and style, Weathers' kinky shoots also ripple with such fiendish levels of eroticism that they could draw sweat from a stone.

A latecomer to fetish, Weathers didn't start shooting kinky pics until he was 35, back in 1997 when this style of photography was still a taboo. While honing his photographic craft, he's snapped major fetish stars such as Eve Ellis, Randy Moore, Christina Carter and Mosh, confessing that he almost exclusively uses models who are into what they do - such as being tied up, or sucking on another woman's nylon-coated tootsies. He also directs adult films for his all-female website, Bondagecafe.com, which branches into associated kinks such as foot worship, superheroine domination and B-movie damsels in distress scenarios. There's also another exciting site in the works, Jimweathers.com, which promises all the frills but without the bondage.

Jim Weathers' stunning photographic work is currently being celebrated in a new tome, *Kinky Bondage Obsession*, which features over 500 pictures of fetish goddesses wriggling and squirming in elaborate patterns of rope. We can't get enough of it, and we bet you'll feel the same way too...

Hello Jim. Would you describe your style as 'glamour bondage'?

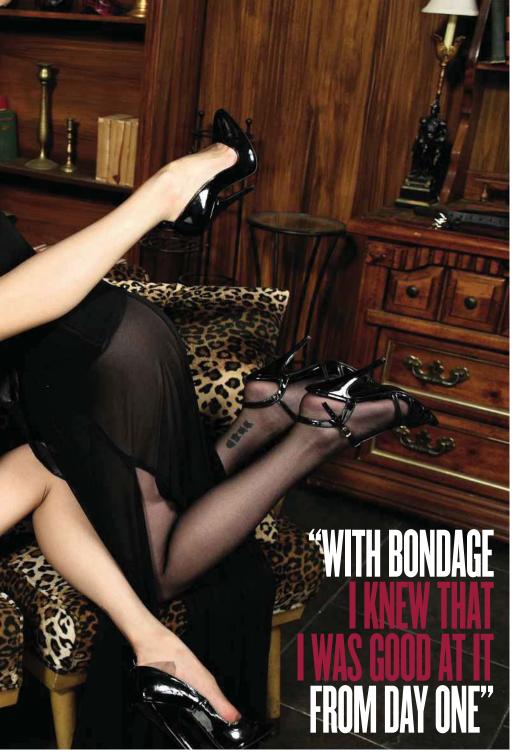
I describe my work as 'bondage art'. I just try to make what I do beautiful, which isn't that easy. When I started this 15 years ago, no one else was doing it. It took an awfully long time to convey what I had in my head into a picture format. In *Kinky Bondage Obsession*, most of the photos are from 2008 and beyond. That's not because the bondage is necessarily better, but because I've improved as a photographer.

Your photos certainly are as beautiful as they are sexual...

Bondage isn't an evil, dark thing, but even today it's often portrayed as very stark and not pretty. My work has always been playful, and that's what bondage really is. It's not necessarily about pain and degradation, which aren't elements that I'm into. My rope work is very intricate, and I'm always trying something different. I'm influenced by the classic bondage art styles of people such as fetish pioneer John Willie (1902 – 1962).









How much preparation goes into tying up the girls before a shoot?

You'd think that I begin with a plan, but I don't. I've been a musician since I was 10, and my rope-work is another free improvisational art form. Through experience I know what works physically, but I wind rope around people and see what comes out comes out. Only once a year will I think something is awesome – but I know I'm good at what I do, so I hold myself to a high standard.

What are some of your proudest shoots in the new book?

I did a 'tie' with Randy Moore in a purple catsuit, which is both in the book and on its spine, and that's probably one of the best ties I've done in five years. It is one of those rare instances where I was totally in awe of myself. Randy's ability to pull off what she did is incredible, though – until you put your arms back in that position, you can't possibly understand how difficult and uncomfortable it was for her. It's important with bondage shoots that you have a photographer who knows what they're doing, otherwise a model could get really hurt. I can't stress that enough.

How long have you had an interest in bondage and fetish?

Since I was five- or six-years-old. Obviously I had no idea what it was back then, and I didn't start photographing until I was 35. People find things to do that are a natural fit. I sold computers for 15 years and felt like a fraud doing it, even though I was successful. However, with bondage I knew that I was good at it professionally from day one.

Was it hard finding models when you first started out?

If you were new to this business, like I was, it was almost impossible to find people to work with. There was an internet, but most people weren't on it yet. We eventually found Eve Ellis, who realised we weren't crazy people. It became easy to find models after that. If you approach someone in a strip club - which is a horrible thing to do anyway - and you show them your work, they looked at you like you're a leper. The conception of what bondage actually is versus how the media portrays it has always been a problem. I hope that my work has helped changed some perceptions. Fifteen years ago it was impossible to find a good catsuit. Now you go into a mainstream clothing store for 20-year-olds in America and there's fetish wear everywhere. I'm glad what I started what I did, though. It would be difficult to have a career in today's market.

You have shot many well-known fetish models. Are some of them more into bondage than the others?

To be a bondage model there has to be a part of you that enjoys it. Of the models I photograph, 90 per cent of them like being tied up, and 30 per cent of them *LOVE* it. I try not to work with people who are not interested in bondage, otherwise it becomes too much work and I have better things to do. Eve Ellis and Dita Von Teese both took to the challenge and wanted to be the best at it. Mosh, Christina Carter, Emily Addison, Randy Moore and Kendra James − who are all in the book − are others that have that same drive. →

CLASSY BONDAGE

Are all the fetishes in your work also personal fetishes of your own?

My pictures are *me*, but it's actually the clothes that are more important for me than the bondage. Bondage on a nude girl does nothing for me whatsoever. It's just the way I'm built. I love really nice stockings, corsets, PVC, latex and *very* high-heeled shoes, which I own a lot of. In fact, I've got two walls full of high-heel shoes.

Your wife must love you...

She does. As it happens, she's also the make-up artist in the book.

Is there a pop culture influence to your work?

Yes, I grew up in the 1960s and 70s and saw Catwoman and Batgirl from a very young age. Then, between the ages of 11 and 20, I lived in London, and I think the Brits are more kinky than the Americans, which showed in their pop culture. The Americans would never have had something like *St Trinian's* in the late 50s. Brits are more reserved, but I think this makes them overtly kinky. The guy who produced 1960s TV spy show *The Avengers* was famously into fetish, so it's pretty obvious why he started dressing his female characters in crazy outfits and making them dominant. If you put the equivalent of the old *Batman* show on TV today, there would be uproar because of the heavy fetish and S&M element. The makers got away with it back then because people didn't see it for what it was.

You also shoot films and clips for your site Bondagecafe.com, which has a strong superheroine / B-movie vibe...

I always wanted to do a superheroine story.

My character, O-girl, played by Christina Carter, →









is really the old *Batman* show with a bunch of girls. It's the most fun and complicated of all my videos to shoot. One crazy O-girl scene could take a whole day, such as the scene where she's trapped by a swinging pendulum. It's expensive to do, but people love it.

What are some of the most elaborate sets you've put together?

In the episode 'The Return Of The Black Minx', Christina Carter was strapped onto an upright slab – but the angle she was tied at made her feel terrible, so we had to take a break every five minutes. It eventually took seven hours to complete in total. We've also created man-eating plants, sawmills and quicksand sets which went beyond ridiculous. They said that, at the time, *Batman* was the most expensive show to produce, and I can understand why. Not only does everything have to be made from scratch, it has to be super-safe too.

There seems to be a quite a big subgenre for 'damsels in distress' scenarios these days...

It's a huge genre. I was the 'grandfather of damsels in distress' as fetish, but now I don't do it nearly as much as everyone else. Some people take it the wrong way. If you watch 'Black Minx' there's a lot of comedy in it. If I shot it without the camp, it would become very dark. Our superheroine stuff is camp and OTT, and not meant to be taken in seriously.

Do all your films end in girl-on-girl sex and orgasms?

Of course, if I weren't doing that I'd be making a mainstream superhero movie. It just so happens that in all my movies there are *only* lesbian girls.

"BONDAGE IS
REALLY ABOUT
SEX FOR ME NOT
DEGRADATION"

Bondage is really about sex for me. It's not about degradation, humiliation or hurting someone. All these public preconceptions involving S&M dungeons, and people being whipped and screaming is not what I'm portraying.

Foot worship and stockings are also prominent in your videos...

Yes, I'm a leg guy. So that's what people see.

Do you exclusively shoot females?

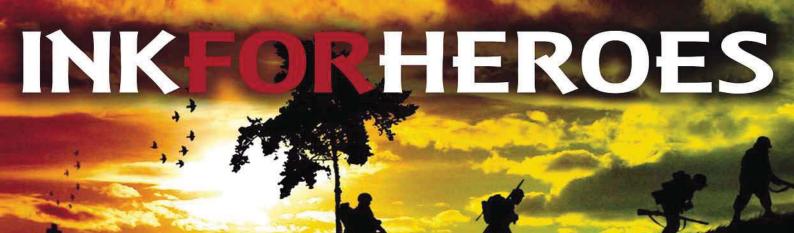
Yes, I don't do boy-on-girl porn. I'm also opening a new site – Jimweathers.com – which is much more girl-girl fetish with no bondage.

So are there any rules to shooting bondage?

I have three main rules. It has to look good and interesting. The bondage has to be effective – the gal can't get out if it, regardless of how much she tries. And the rope needs to be tied in such a way that its stays in the same place. This is one of those 'rules' that sounds easy, but is actually the most challenging aspect of good bondage. It's really difficult to tie ropes in such a way that the gals can't move around, either inadvertently or on purpose.

Kinky Bondage Obsession by Jim Weathers is out now, published by Goliath Books (Goliathbooks.com). For more from Jim Weathers, head over to Bondagecafe.com and Jimweathers.com





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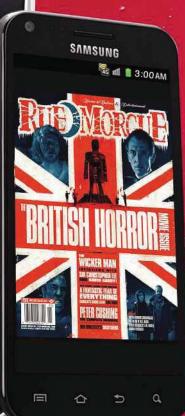




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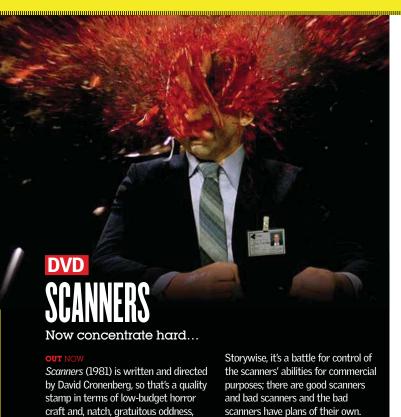




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SQUEALER



CIDAL TENDENCIES

PASADENA NAPALM DIVISION





It's a blinding month if you like old skool thrash and hardcore. Mike Muir's Suicidal

Tendencies are back after 13 years out of the game. Meanwhile, Kurt Brecht of D.R.I. has formed Pasadena Napalm Division with members of old thrashers Dead Horse. The latter's self-titled debut shifts at full-pelt, like early Anthrax minus the cock rock crooning. Suicidal's 13 mixes bass-funk and (some) tenderness into a storm of urban thrashing. It's a stand-off. Get 'em both!



odd years since its release. Classic.

The early 80s were a golden time for

this kind of psychic horrorshow and Cronenberg's masterfully spectacular

special effects transcend the thirty-

EAD ISLAND RIPTIDE

Soaking up the spray

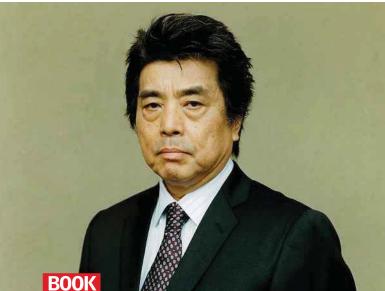
OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360

GAME

Welcome back to Banoi, gore fans - the now infamous archipelago, overrun by fleet-footed zombies. In Dead Island we were introduced to Techland's superb imagining of a zombie holocaust, closer than any game has come to the cloying Romero classics. In Riptide the hapless

survivors continue to improvise weapons and team tactics but are joined by five new heroes, each bringing a strategic advantage. As you can see from the screenshot, this 18-rated jaunt leaves very little to the imagination. Why not hunt down the Collector Edition that comes with a dismembered torso...





FROM THE FATHERLAND WITH LOVE

Big trouble in the east

but *Scanners* is seriously plot-driven

scanners - who can enter the minds of other humans or duel with each other

mentally... with head-exploding results.

and concerns a breed of humans -

RYU MURAKAMI



Ryu Murakami is one of Japan's modern literary greats, and author of the novel behind Takashi Miike's Audition film. Believe it or

not, his new tale is frightening on an even grander scale.

In an alternate reality, Japan's economy has collapsed, and North Korea has launched an undercover mission to conquer their land. When a group of aging psychos and violent upstarts fight back, things get messy. Not only is this novel fantastic, it's also a stark wakeup-call of just how fragile our world is. Basically, this SHIT COULD HAPPEN.

BYZANTUM

Director Neil Jordan brings a delicate touch to this tale of vampiric angst

OUT NOW

IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE

original Let The Right One In did when it was unleashed, this luscious looking and inventively executed vampire flick manages to kick the rest of the subgenre's recent offerings into touch.

No stranger to bloodsucking lore, Interview With The Vampire director Neil Jordan sinks his teeth into a tale that dispenses with much of it; firstly

'turned', the plot tells of two-centuriesold female vampires, Clara and Eleanor (Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters' megabuxom Gemma Arterton, and Hanna's Saoirse Ronan), who are on the run from members of an ancient order. Holed-up in a small seaside town, Clara sets up a 'knocking-shop' and Eleanor gets romantically involved with a young haemophiliac (Antiviral's Caleb Landry Jones). They're acts that prove perilous for all concerned.

performances: the former as a manipulative, sexual predator determined to survive by any means necessary, the latter as the mentallytormented, younger of the pair, who yearns to lead a normal life. While this in itself is testament to Jordan's skill at getting the best out of his players, where he scores big time though is visually. His juxtaposition of the bleakness of the key characters' existence with the gorgeously lush fantasy elements is as breathtaking as it is compelling.

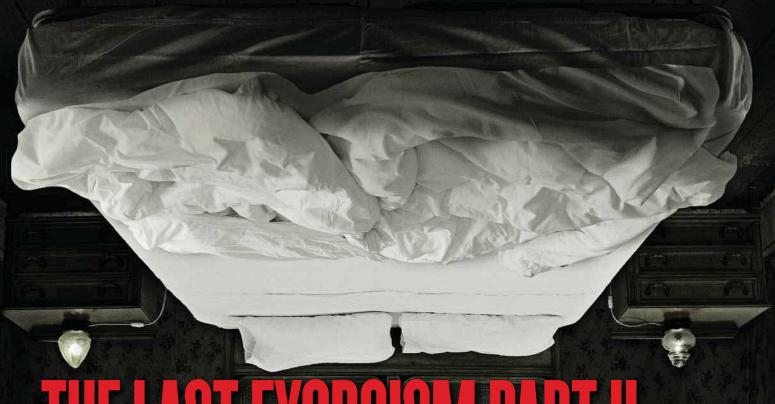


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THE LASTEMORE SWEETING

She's just a devil woman

OUT 7 JUNE

ASHLEY BELL RETURNS AS THE

now apparently dispossessed Nell from the previous Last Exorcism flick, which used found footage in a documentary style to debunk (unsuccessfully) the concept of possession. This time Nell is still a troubled and deeply religious young woman, but is now living in a rehabilitation facility where she's reintroduced to the trappings of normality. However, it's not long before creepy stuff starts to happen... Nell is visited by the ghost of her father, who warns her of impending danger, her new friends are apparently possessed by demons, and she's attacked by a flock of suicidal birds.
Co-writer and director
Ed Gass-Donnelly deliberately avoids relentless shock tactics in favour of a measured escalation of tension, which will leave the faint-

hearted with frayed nerves and a racing heart as the story crashes towards its grim conclusion. Scares aside, a strong central performance from Ashley Bell carries the film, who deftly portrays a troubled girl on the edge of womanhood with restraint and a compelling presence.



THE **BEST NEW FILMS** COMING TO A BIG DARK ROOM NEAR YOU

SQUEALER





AGUIRRE: THE WRATH OF GOD

Into the valley

a few twists along the way...

OUT 7 JUNE

A TREATISE ON 16TH CENTURY

megalomania and greed in the Amazon basin, Werner Hertzog's *Aguirre* is still a visual feast, despite being nearly 40 years old, and has a sumptuous, dreamlike quality that will haunt you long after the end credits have rolled. Klaus Kinski stars as the eponymous Aguirre, a Spanish conquistador in search of El Dorado. Declaring himself king of everything, Aguirre forces his will on his men with extreme results as they battle with the terrain and its inhabitants. Lush, vivid, claustrophobic and utterly unforgettable.

NFANFALL

We are family

OUT 10 MAY

ON THE SURFACE, STEFAN

Ruzowitzky's *Deadfall* gives the appearance of being a gritty and stylish crime thriller – but there's way more bubbling under the surface. The twisted story follows two siblings on the run after a botched casino heist, who decide to split up and make their way separately to the Canadian border

and freedom. However, the story veers into a clever study of the human condition when the pair are bizarrely reunited during another family's Thanksgiving celebration. A strong cast including Kris Kristofferson and Sissy Spacek makes *Deadfall* a compelling watch, and the unfolding violence amid Michigan's snowy wilderness helps create a thought-provoking commentary on family ties.



REVIEW DISCS TO SQUANDER YOUR CASH ON

OUT NOW

AS WITH EVERY BIG SCREEN

offering he's so far served up, the latest from rock god Rob Zombie is wackedout brilliant. Considering the abundance of cruddy horror flicks out there, we at *Bizarre* are amazed that shit-hurling Rob Zombie haters are still out in force.

Working from a self-penned script, his tale of vengeful witchery kicks off with a highly atmospheric tableau of cursing crones that looks torn from one of (Spanish artist) Goya's disturbing masterpieces. Fast-forward to modern day Salem, Massachusetts, and into the life of an ex-junkie DJ (played by a sizzling Sheri Moon Zombie) named Heidi. When she receives an old-school vinyl disc from an outfit named The Lords, her life spin hellishly out-of-control.

Delivered at a measured pace, and accompanied by a sparse yet moody score (courtesy of Mr Z's guitarist John 5 and composer Griffin Boice), what transpires is Zombie at his most outthere visual. Playing like a wildfire melding of work by legendary film directors Ken Russell (Altered States) and Dario Argento (Suspiria), the majority of the movie unfolds like a diabolically majestic hallucination – featuring such mental eye-candy as Mrs Zombie riding a goat, a trio of wanking bishops and a dwarf demon.

Zombie sets his fright-sight way above easy shock and cheap-ass gore tactics, choosing instead to fill viewers' heads full of haunting, very weird shit.

Billy Chainsaw

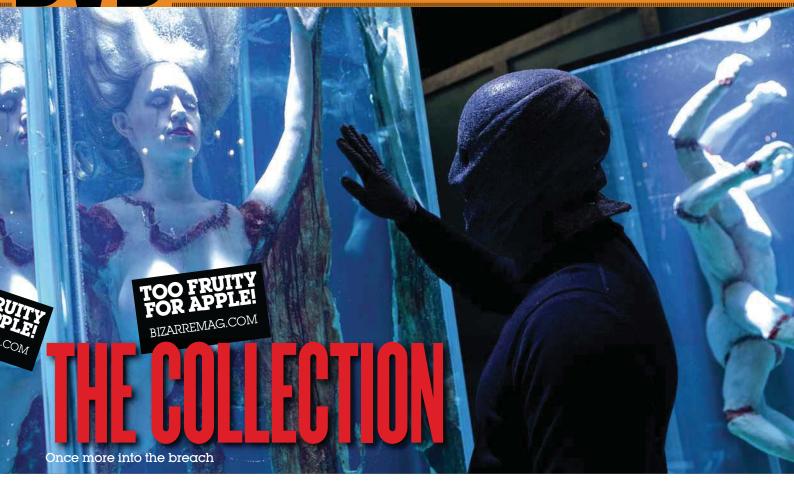


FILM AND DVD EDITOR BILLY CHAINSAW Billychainsaw@blackthorncommunications.com

SQUEALER



DE PREVIEWS



OUT NOW

CHANCES ARE, IF YOU ESCAPE

the clutches of a serial killer, especially one known as 'The Collector', the very last thing you're going to do is return to his booby-trapped labyrinth to free another victim.

But that's exactly what our hero does in this sequel to *The Collector*.

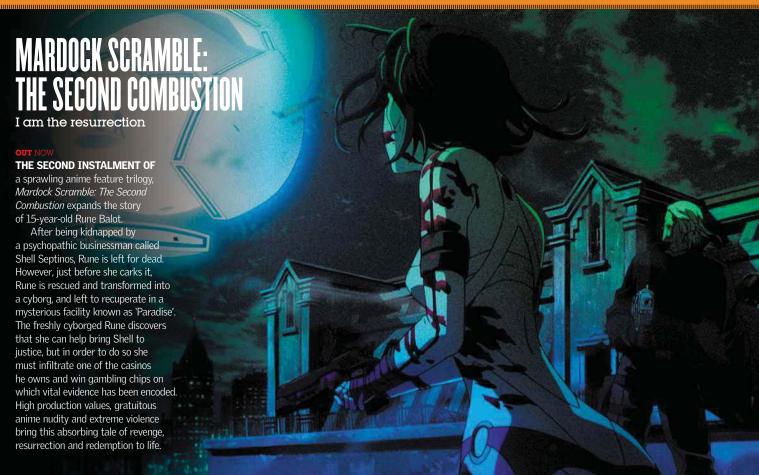
The Collector's bloody schtick is to slaughter entire families, but keep one member as a grisly trophy. The trophy in question here is Elena, and our unlikely hero, Arkin, is smalltime criminal who agrees to lead a group of beefed-up bruisers into The Collector's lair to rescue her.

Like Ripley in James Cameron's sci-fi epic *Aliens*, Arkin is only there to advise, having escaped from the place himself with Elena's help at the top of the film. But the best-laid plans rarely run smoothly, especially in horror cinema, and so there's plenty of death and gore as the story unfolds, and dozens of overthe-top moments when the protagonists stumble on the vicious booby traps The Collector has installed at every turn.



THE **BEST SHINY NEW DISCS**TO SQUANDER YOUR CASH ON

SQUEALER





IN THE NAME OF THE KING: TWO WORLDS

He's special, so special

OUT NOW

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT

this premise...? An ex-special forces commando turned martial arts instructor, played by Dolph Lundgren, finds himself whisked back to medieval times to fulfil an ancient prophecy and, possibly, find redemption for his own unpleasant battlefield experiences. Count us in!

Director Uwe Boll is probably best known to *Bizarre* readers for

his low budget fantasy action films and videogame adaptations – but despite his recent forays into 'serious' film-making such as *Auschwitz*, this is a guilty pleasure that doesn't deviate from the director's most famous – and most despised – flicks. A raft of despicable villains, ninjas and a dragon make this a romp that will keep you entertained until the end, and help you to forgive its creaky effects and shonky dialogue.

WHAT RICHARD DIE

Regrets? I've had a few

OUT NOW

SOUTH DUBLIN IS IRELAND'S

Beverly Hills, and its youngsters are rich and bright – and none more so than Richard Karlsen (Jack Reynor). Karlsen is a gifted golden boy, a fledgling leader of men and a first class athlete, and is on the cusp of going to university. But then things take an unexpected turn for the worse.

What Richard Did unravels the terrible and cataclysmic events of one night's drunken stupidity, and their consequences on a group of young friends. A startlingly intense performance from Reynor and the supporting cast helps make director Lenny Abrahamson's film a gem of Irish film-making you should not miss.



REAL FORROR SHOW!

BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from Bizarre's free film club, CUT!

Cutting to the chase: the *Bizarre* film club CUT! experience is the equivalent of sitting in a big living-room with a bunch of your mates watching films on a fuck-off huge screen. Better still, it's free and we throw in a free beverage – alcoholic or soft – to sup during your retinal assault.

I have been organizing and hosting CUT! once a month for over two and a half years now, at London's Horse Hospital, a place where, in Victorian times, sick gee-gees were dispatched to be operated on. Think somewhere that's a cross between a dungeon and the kind of place where Jack the Ripper might've practiced his skills, which still has the cobble-stoned floors and gullys down which the blood would drain.

We don't screen just *any* films though – hell no! They have to fit in with the magazine's m. o.: which means they have to be either (a) horrifying, (b) ultraviolent, (c) downright weird, (d) funny (intentionally or for all the wrong reasons), and finally the all important (e) every film screened has to be an exclusive preview of a yet to be released (either theatrically or on DVD / Blu-ray) title.

For April's CUT! we slipped into major flash-back mode, with a wonderful slice of B-movie madness from 1961 called *KONGA*. It stars Michael Gough (Alfred, in Tim Burton's *Batman*) as a mad scientist who returns from a mission in Africa with a formula that enables plants and animals to grow to outlandish proportions. Cue 15-foot carnivorous plants and, more

importantly, the title's gigantic ape. But unlike his celluloid cousin *King Kong*, he's not interested in getting his furry mitts on a dumb blonde; all he cares about is causing chaos throughout London. That's not the only difference between the two: while the 1933 creature was a wonder of stop-motion animation, here he's a bloke in a suit running riot among balsa-wood miniatures. But hey, that, along with the lurid nature of the plot, and melodramatic performances makes *Konga* such a trashy, daft slice of '60s schlock.

KONGA is on DVD from 13 MAY 2013



This extremely loose adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's story stars the legendary Bela Lugosi as a mad doctor who nabs Parisian prostitutes for use in a diabolical experiment – which involves mixing their blood with that of his pet ape. Although the film has a ludicrous plot, it's played out against a creepy, atmospheric backdrop, with Lugosi at his maniacal, disturbing best. Mind you, whoever thought that inserting close-ups of a real ape's face was a good idea should've been force-fed bananas till they burst.

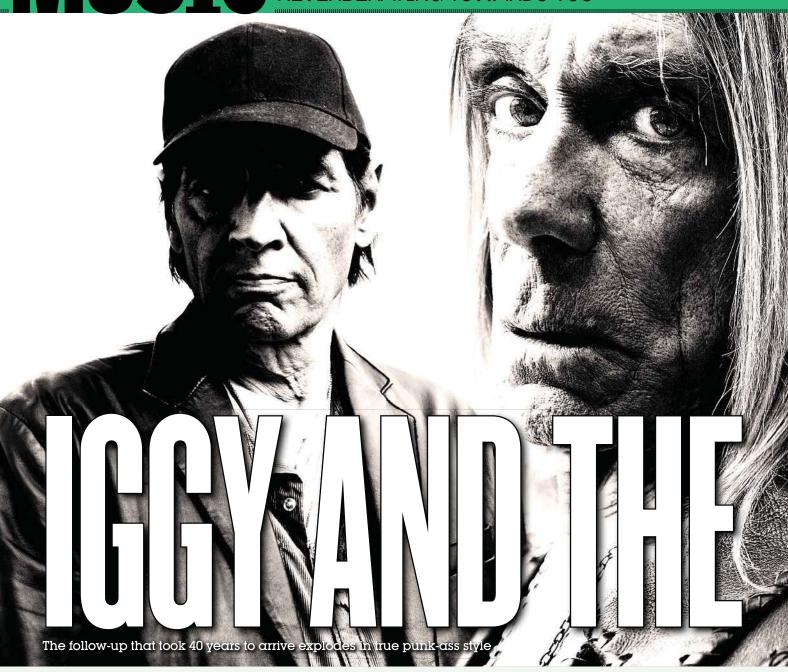


WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre's* Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).



THE BEST NEW SOUNDS REVERBERATING TOWARDS YOU



RFANY TO DIF



Some follow-ups take a long time, but it's unusual for them to take

40 years. Iggy Pop & co. only recorded one album under the guise of Iggy And The Stooges – the nihilistic, ears-bleeding masterpiece *Raw Power* (1973). Now welcoming the return of its demonic riff-master, James Williamson, who had retired from music for some 35 years, *Ready To Die* sounds like the 1970s was only a few hours ago. Its three openers, especially, are raging animals of infectious punk'n'roll.

Stephen Daultrey

Q&A

really do much.

JAMES WILLIAMSON - GUITAR

The question everyone's asking: why has it taken you 40 years to record a follow-up to *Raw Power*? It's complicated, but basically I'd stopped playing music. So I couldn't

Your guitar playing is the main reason why *Raw Power* was so great. Johnny Marr described you as 'Darth Vader on guitar'. Why did you stop playing?

We'd run into a dead end as a band. We were touring and trying to get new deals, but we just weren't popular. Eventually Iggy took off with David Bowie to try a solo career, and I decided I couldn't stomach the music business any more. I tried becoming an audio engineer, but I couldn't stand recording bands that I didn't like.

So I went back to school and became an electronics engineer and had a long, successful career in Silicon Valley. Music was far from my mind when I got a call from Iggy in 2009, saying that Ron Asheton [The Stooges quitarist / bassist] had died.

Did Raw Power really get a bad reception when it released in 1973? Oh, it was awful. It went right into the bargain bins just two weeks after it came out. It was awful.

Yet it now consistently ranks high in most critics' 'best albums of all time' lists...

Yes, and it still sounds great and current. You can't say that about many 40-year-old albums. People couldn't relate to our sound back then. Iggy said it best when he said there wasn't

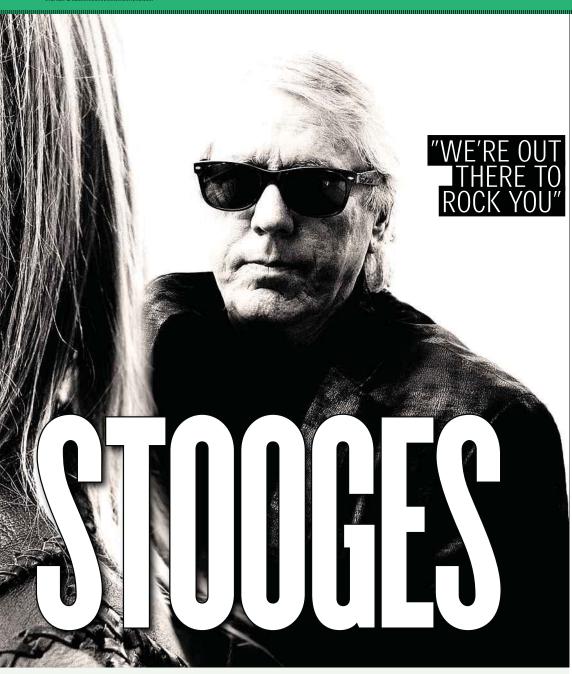
a vocabulary to describe it. Then bands like the Sex Pistols, Nirvana, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Guns N' Roses came along, and they were all influenced by what we did. Slowly we became popular because of them. But I think we do it better.

Ready To Die sounds remarkably feisty. Is it something of a misnomer that age is a barrier to making exciting rock music?

40 years may have passed, but there are many things about us that haven't changed. It depends what you do with that age. If you're trying to be something you used to be, you'll never succeed, but if you're trying to be yourself, then you will.

My ears still bleed listening to Raw Power. The production on Ready To

SQUEALER



Die is a bit more 'friendly'. I'd just like to say I'm appreciating it...

Thanks. I produced it. Raw Power was the first album I ever did, and I really didn't know what I was doing, so I deferred it to Iggy, but he's not a technical guy. There are so many technical problems with Raw Power because we did it on our own without any adult supervision. Later, when Bowie remixed the album for us, he didn't have much to work with. But people like Jack White have made a career out of loud guitar, vocals and a little drums.

I saw The Stooges perform a few years ago, and 60-something Iggy still runs around the stage like a demented 18-year-old. It's hard to believe, but awesome all the same. If you come to see us now, that's still true. I'd put this band up against any band. We know how to rock, that's just the way it is. Judging by some of the new bands around, that's a lost art. Does that mean Iggy is still whipping his dick out onstage?

There have been a few close calls. His jeans slip down his hips, which isn't a great sight from where I'm standing. I don't think Iggy needs to prove anything, but he will still stage dive and, up until recently, we were doing stage invasions. We're out there to rock you. Whatever Iggy has to do to get people excited, he'll do it. Are your hedonistic lifestyles of

the 1970s a thing of the past?

We would have killed ourselves back then if we had the money to do so. Being broke was the only thing that saved us. We were also unprofessional back then: we'd miss shows or play entirely new material at every gig, which confused audiences. We're all older and wiser now. But everything's

different. We were inducted into the rock'n'roll hall of fame and now have a huge fanbase.

Have you got any UK dates planned for the future?

We will be touring Europe all summer, including the UK.

We interviewed Mistress Liliane Hunt who trains 'human animals'. She often quotes Iggy, who said: "I'm not ashamed to dress 'like a woman' because I don't think it's shameful to be a woman". She applies this philosophy to people dressing as animals. Thoughts?

There's room for everybody in this world as long as they're not hurting anybody. There's a big movement in Germany where these guys feel an affinity to Native Americans and feel compelled to dress up and behave like them. I don't know if that would work for me, but why not?

DINGUS KHAN PPORT MISLEY SWANS. OR ELSE



OUT 27 MAY

The press release for this Essex eight-piece describes them as a cross between Frank

Zappa's Mothers Of Invention and Blur, which meant there was only one place this CD was being slam-dunked: right into our Macs (on the strength of it being a mental combo rather than anything else). It's an extended edition of their debut album released last year, boosted with a new track and video.



OUT NOW

It's a beautiful feeling when you accidentally stumble across a band you've never heard of,

and then accidentally find yourself loving them to bits. This beardy German trio rock out PROPER 1970s psychedelic space / Sabbath rock, with tones so warm and crunchy you'll feel like serving them up with gherkins, cheese and fries. We're in total disbelief it was recorded after 1971.



OUT NOW

There's a small-tomedium chance you may have heard of Justin Pearson, as the

San Diego native has thrashed / yelled his way through a heap of cult racketmakers including The Locust and Bastard Noise. Latest act Retox is like an art house *Reign In Blood*, all brazen blasts of 200-bpm hardcore with some dangerously dark guitar lines.

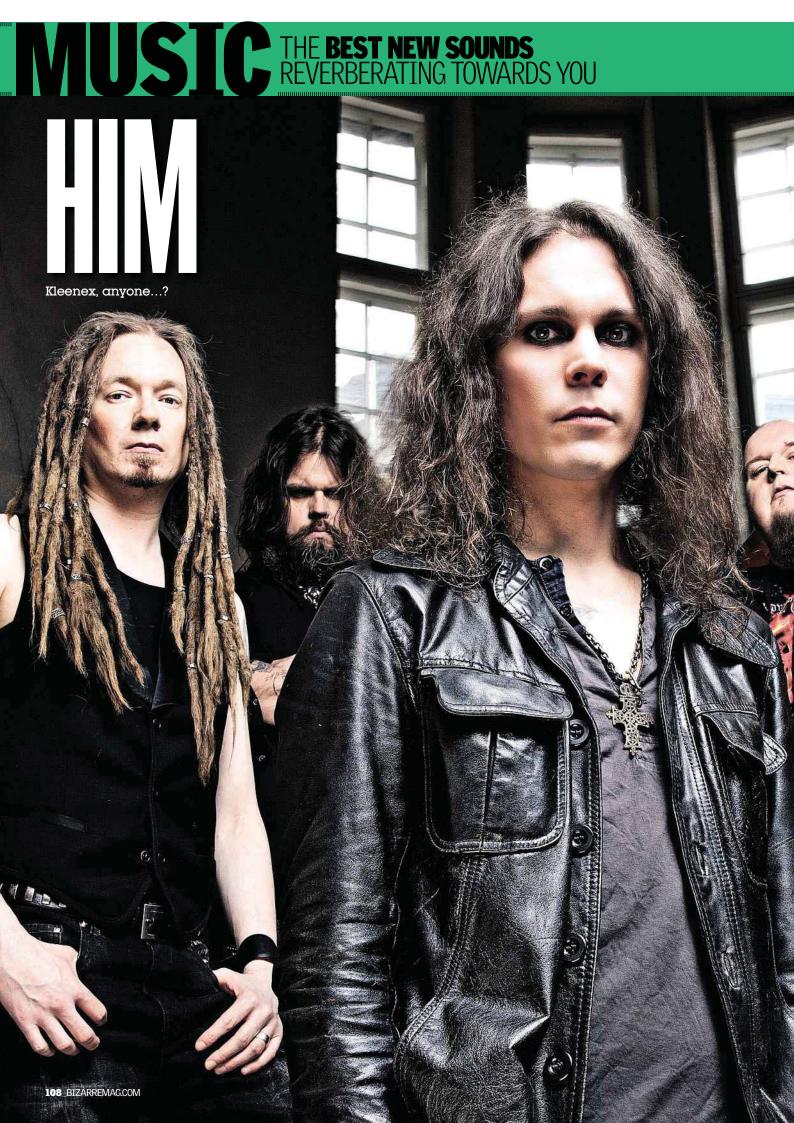
THE BUNNY THE BEAR



OUT NOW

The Bunny The Bear are like a cross between screamo, US electro pop and

a Disney stage show, which sounds really shit in principle, but is quirky enough as a package to be strangely compelling. The sweeter moments are genuinely naff, but something like 'In Like Flynn' is both violently catchy and weird. Imagine a bloke screaming all the way through a school play - it's something like that... kinda.







Q&A VILLE VALO – SINGER

People are saying your new album is 'heavier' and 'back-to-basics'.

I don't know how different it is from what we've done in the past. Maybe it's closer to 2003's *Love Metal*, with the crunchy riffs and sentimentality. It has a Roy Orbison vibe. At the end of the day, we're too close to the process of making the music to really say what's different about it.

I did read something about it being Roy Orbison meets Black Sabbath.

Well, we're kind of David Lynchian. Our music is absurd and perverted, and makes for a 'bad dream' kind of music. We're hoping to be called the *Twin Peaks* of rock'n'roll!

You have previously described yourself as a 'hopeless romantic'. Are you still one?

I'm definitely hopeless. I'm not sure how romantic I am any more or what romance means. I'm getting too old. I'm getting jaded and bitter about life in general. I do like the idea of being a 'romantic', but that's me trying to pat myself on the back.

The new album's called *Tears On Tape*. When did you last cry?

I don't really cry. I just sniff a bit on occasion. For me the battle is more about the blood, sweat and tears, and the passion you put into the music. Our idols such as Black Sabbath and

That you'd secretly gotten married, that you owned a chain of burger restaurants and a football team, and that PSY who created 'Gangnam Style' said that he'd love you to do his dance more than anyone else in the world...

Well, the more stories the better. It's a sign that people are interested in what we do. The downside is that you never know what's real. I'm not married. I'm not into any sports or fast food. And I didn't know that the 'Gangnam Style' even existed until about three weeks ago. I'm a slow mover. If it had been released on vinyl rather than YouTube, then it might be a different story.

Your band's symbol the 'heartagram' is very famous. Your friend Steve-O of *Jackass* parodied it with his 'dickagram'.

Yeah, it's so funny. Steve-0's a real character and a lovely bloke. We go way back, but I haven't seen him for a few years. The dickagram is one of the funniest spoofs. But I always say if you turn the heartagram upside down, it becomes the 'rectalgram' because it looks like a fucking bottom.

The heartagram is one of your own many tatts. Is there meaning behind your skin ink?

Like all good music, tattoos should be

"I'M DEFINITELY HOPELESS. AND NOT THAT ROMANTIC"

Elvis Presley poured their hearts out onto tape. You could say we're carrying the torch for that music.

Talking of torches, do you still get loads of cigarette lighters waved at all your gigs, or is it just a sea of mobile phones now?

There must be a cigarette lighter app for the iPhone. There *must* be... If no-one's made one, then be my guest and become rich! But it's ridiculous when people just spend gigs shooting on their phones. They've gone to see a band and all they see is a 3in screen.

As one of your country's biggest stars, do you have a paparazzi problem in Finland?

The tabloid thing is still in its infancy here. You'd have to be Michael Jackson to get any trouble. I've heard that Tina Turner and Whitney Houston, when she was alive, always used to hang out in Helsinki because they could walk the streets without being bothered.

I found a website which has a lot of tabloidy news stories about you. To be honest, they all sounded quite far-fetched...

What were they?

shallow and deep at the same time. You don't have to take them seriously but when that moment of hopelessness happens, you can take them *way* too seriously. It's good to have light and shade, as opposed to just watching comedies or horror films. It's terrific to watch 'horrific comedies'.

Oh, so what 'horrific comedies' do you like then?

One of my favourites is *Garth Marenghi's Dark Place*, which was a Channel 4 spoof. It's not well known.

That show was great! Are you into cult British TV? Care to name a few of your recent discoveries?

Yes, you have so much. Three months ago I saw *The Mighty Boosh* for the first time and loved it. My girlfriend has a friend from Brighton and she recommended me that and *Spaced*.

Do you think you'll ever go into acting, or are you keeping things purely about the music?

No, I'll leave that to the professionals, like Jon Bon Jovi.

Some people may say that you look a little bit like Johnny Depp.

I hadn't noticed that. I'm a huge fan, but I'd rather resemble Howard Moon.

GAMESFEATURE

GUAGAMELE

Too-spicy-for-hell luchador legend flies off the Scoville scale, celebrates the whole retro enchilada

OUT NOW, PS3, PS VITA (VIA PSN) AFTER SEVERAL HOURS SOARING

through Mexicana heaven (actually hell, getting to that later), we had to share the joy of indie-developed *Guacamelee!* – big

time! The trials of a lowly Mexican villager turned luchador saviour of The World of the Living and The World of the Dead explode with authentic local flavour, and cost just under a tenner for this mega meal made for two.

One of the neat twists even before you get to the game is that *Guacamelee!* is playable across both PlayStation 3 and PS Vita; a single purchase giving access to both versions. Also, your saved game is shared, via Cloud storage, between PS3 and PS Vita – if you own both you can continue the same journey on whichever screen you choose. Both look sweeter than a truck-load of churros.

Behind the mask, *Guacamelee!* is an old-skool beat 'em up that bangs upon similar drums to 1990s classics you may

know such as *Castlevania Symphony Of The Night*, and *Super Metroid*. You can go it alone, or play co-op with a pal, squaring off against the minions of hell. Only this isn't the grim kind of videogame hell as we've come to know it.

The guys at DrinkBox Studios in Toronto decided to do something that was less fire and brimstone meets pipeorgans and more Fiestas Patrias with piñata. As DrinkBox design lead Chris McQuinn informed *Bizarre*, "You can see the Mexicana vibe throughout the entire game, with respect to art, storyline and design. Some examples are seen when the player falls down a giant cenote, or encounters a boss named X'tabay, who is based on a siren from Mexican folklore."

To the best of our knowledge, a Mexican theme console game has never made it past any corporate whiteboard. The beauty of independent game development means that, just for example, your Mexican animator (we're talking about you Augusto) needs only to light a fire in the bellies of co-workers. "Personally

differences of how the dead are viewed in Mexico versus the culture I grew up with," shares Chris, "For me the unique experience of *Guacamelee!* is all about exploring the Day of the Dead, and that the netherworld isn't full of scary chouls, but

allowed us to really explore the cultural

that the netherworld isn't full of scary ghouls, but where loved ones go upon death. For example, in *Guacameleel*, you can help a little skeleton girl by locating her missing teddy in the living world. I love this nuance."

So, props from *Bizarre* to Sony for supporting DrinkBox with *Guacamelee!* ("it's tough to get noticed as a small studio, so it's nice when a large console gives you opportunities"). A genuine shame that the game isn't available through Xbox LIVE for Xbox 360, but PlayStation owners have been served a genuine retro-inspired classic here.





SQUEALER





GAMESREVIEWS

INJUSTICE: GODS AMONG US

Who would win in a scrap: Superman or Harley Quinn? Okay, please don't answer that...

OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360

LIBERTIES TAKEN WITH DC LORE

aside, you're still looking at arguably the greatest lycra-clad 'smackdown' in console history with the arrival of *Injustice: Gods Among Us.* It's a one-on-one fighting game from the guys that delivered the latest *Mortal Kombat*, NetherRealm. Boy, do they ever fill their knee-high boots in this earth-shattering escapade.

The roster features 24 super-beings from both sides of the DC Universe, which is HUGE, but you can bet on additional characters being planned for download later this year. Just while we remember to mention it, UK retailer Game has a swanky special edition that includes extra missions and costumes based on the *Superman:* Red Son novel. Grab it while it's hot...

Quite apart from the orgasmic combinations of moves that only a man of steel or warrior princess of the Amazons could muster, the top secret *Bizarre* HQ has been shaking to the awesome ear-splitting sonics that ensue. When Batman provokes Scarecrow to tear the lid of his holding cell and crush opponents, it sounds like your own ceiling is about to cave in. It's also superb how combat seamlessly and wittily breaks for some super hero / villain trash talk, with dialogue reflecting age-old rivalries.

Sure, the one-on-one fighting thing has been done to death (and beyond if you include Capcom's *Darkstalkers*). Familiar conventions line up here, but in ways that make *Injustice*... feel modern and with such a fine degree of polish.



SOUL SACRIFICE

Monster Hunter-inspired RPG combines The NeverEnding Story with extreme body modding

OUT NOW, PS VITA

TRAINEE SORCERERS SHOULD

look into this quest that literally costs an arm or a leg. See, *Soul Sacrifice* gets its name from the premise that victory over monsters comes at a price.

Defeated foes offer themselves up to be saved or sacrificed, and depending on which you choose your personalised avatar gets a health or magic boost to help with further encounters. More intriguing is that you can surrender pieces of your body (skin, eyes, or limb) to perform Forbidden Spells, causing greater harm to the enemy, but leaving you temporarily scotched.

When you rope in three other players via Wi-Fi, they can volunteer to pay the ultimate sacrifice (death!) and deal colossal damage to particularly awkward adversaries. Umm, you first...



PIPING HOT GAMES NOW PLAYING AT BIZARRE





DRAGON'S DOGMA: Dark arisen

Dealings directly with Death himself, and yes of course there be dragons

OUT NOW, PS3, XBOX 360

HERE'S MORE MONSTER-SLAYING,

but looking even more incredible since your valiant exploits are on PS3 and Xbox 360. *Dark Arisen* is an expansion to last year's *Dragon's Dogma*, but the arrival of Bitterblack Isle made this too big to serve as a regular download. Hence, a total re-release comprising the entire critically-acclaimed *Dragon's Dogma*, plus extra monsters, weapons and wizard class.

Developer / producer Capcom has been doing hack 'n' slash since before some of us were born, and the heritage shows in awesome creature design plus the ingenious ways in which they are defeated. If this kind of action were combined with *Skyrim*, we'd have the game of all time on our hands. We love it.



The cyber beauties and the beasts

CHAD MICHAEL WARD



THE RAVISHING,

Bizarre-friendly images you're ogling on these pages are the work of Chad Michael Ward. A Californian

photographer / artist / filmmaker, the talented Mr Ward specialises in erotic gothic subjects, and displays an eye for the dark side that's seen him become a renowned promotional snapper for porn stars and alternative rock royalty alike, including big names such as Marilyn Manson, Fear Factory and Black Veil Brides.

Immoderation collects Ward's three previous books of conceptual goth art, and there's barely a dull moment in its 256 pages. The chapter 'Black Rust' features fantasy images from Ward's first book, which began as a small-scale project in 2001, while the 'Devil Engine' section melds the fantastical, the fetishistic and the biomechanical through paintings and photos.

'Autopsyrotica' is our favourite book: all monochrome, deathly decadent snaps of curvaceous models with unicorn horns, decaying flesh, ball-gags and Frankenstein-style patchwork flesh, the images creep off the pages like a macabre hotchpotch of the Silent Hill videogame series, Mary Shelley and antiquarian Victorian grot. Often as sumptuous as it is menacing, Immoderation is an inviting, all-encompassing introduction to one of the most important 'genre' artists working today.







THE BEST NEW READS ON THE SHELVES THIS MONTH

THE MAKING OF HITCHCOCK'S *THE BIRDS*

TONY LEE MORAL



GIVEN HOW SHIT some movie effects are these days, one of Hollywood's biggest mysteries is just how

Alfred Hitchcock get his 1963 chiller

The Birds to look so real... and terrifying? Author Moral tries to answer these questions in detail, kicking off a chronological journey that begins with Daphne Du Maurier's source novel, takes in actress Tippi Hedren being pecked to buggery in an attic, and finishes with the censors throwing a wobbly over Hitch's dead birds.



Brit flicks you ain't bleedin' heard of, mate

JULIAN UPTON



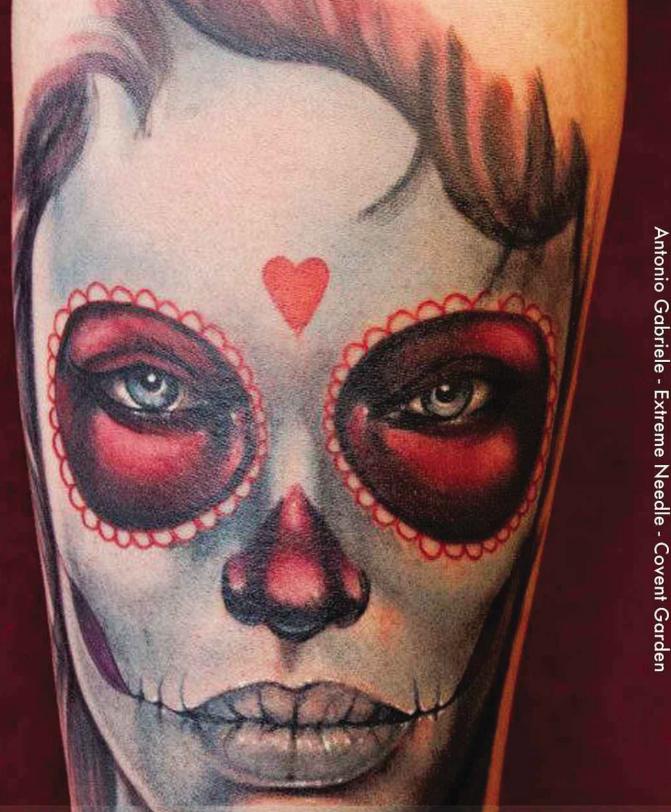
A GUIDEBOOK OF

'British Cinema's Curiosities, Obscurities and Forgotten Gems', there are some real oddballs nestled here. Oliver Reed's

butler practising witchcraft in Blue Blood (1973) and the 1971 comedy-drama Girl Stroke Boy, about a boy bringing a West Indian 'girl-boy' home to his snobbish parents, both sound riveting.



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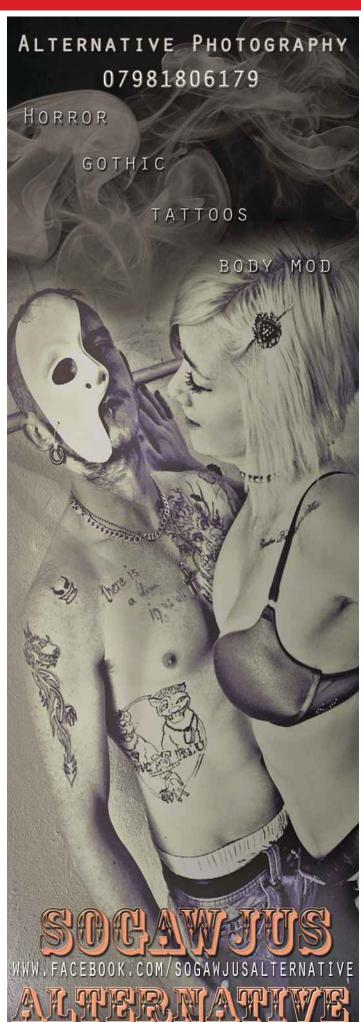












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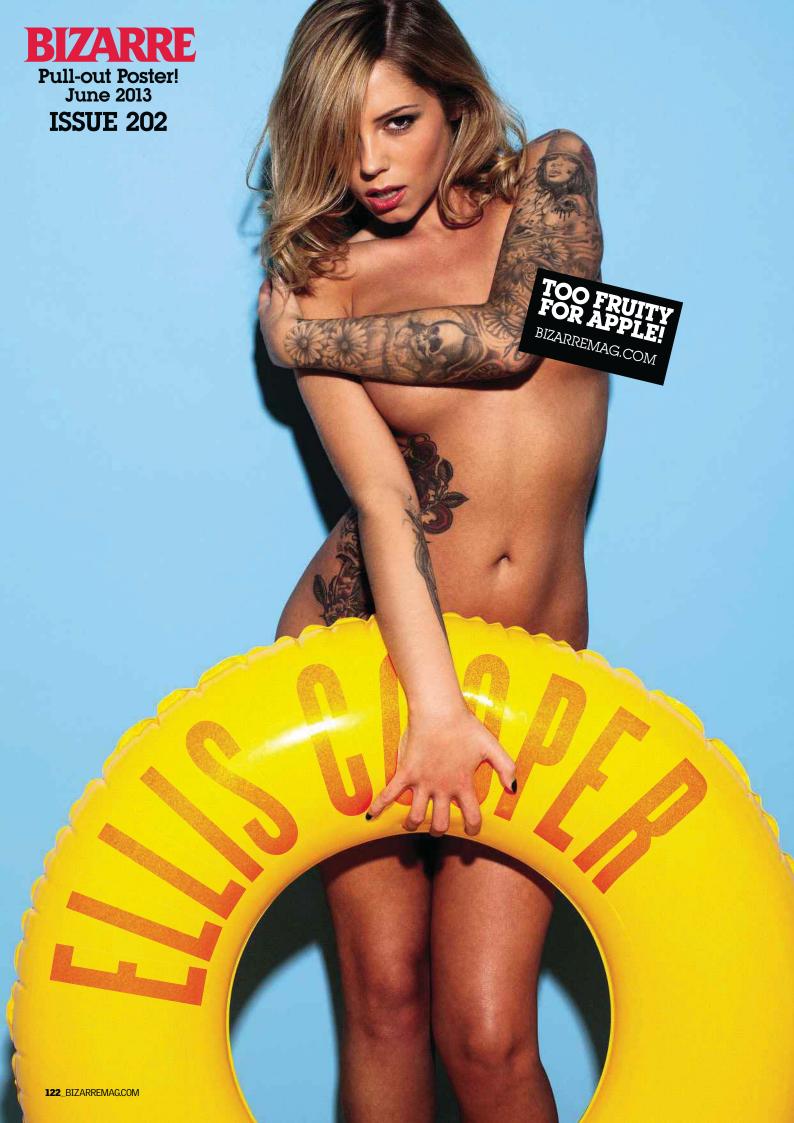














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